

2005 Essex Town Report

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DEDICATION

This Town Report is a Dedication and Thanks to a Unique Individual

If ever you have a chance to sit down and ask Bruce Glowac what he has thus far accomplished for himself and done for others in his lifetime, give yourself plenty of time. At any rate, this page wouldn't have enough room to outline those achievements so we cannot do that here. Suffice it to testify, Bruce attended Valley Regional High School and after staying put in the area all this time, we again observe him at Valley in a round about sort of way. He married Taffy in 1975, moved to Essex in 1981, and has four sons, each in their twenties. Focusing in Environmental Sciences and Education during his college days and, after negotiating which course he would follow in life, Bruce embarked in his own business venture, a landscaping and property management firm.

Bruce became involved in town politics and won election for selectman and first selectman for several terms of office. His public service accomplishments are numerous and still remain visible in Essex today. This, however, was not enough for Bruce. He then became Director of Facilities for Region School District #4. Following the ratification of the Region #4 construction and renovation bond, Bruce found the time and interest to expand those responsibilities to directing and managing the building renovation and construction projects at Valley Regional High School, John Winthrop Jr.

High School and the new administration building. All of this was realized within a generous and professional framework for all the area citizens and their towns.

When the First Selectman elect was asked in 1992 to comment on Valley Regional High School, Bruce replied "Two things I got out of Valley: a very well rounded education and, during our Senior year, the word at Valley was pride." Well, Bruce, in this very real sort of way, you're still at Valley and you still show pride.

History of Essex

The Town of Essex has a rich background, dating from the mid-17th century. Lt. William Pratt, William Hyde, and John Lay were the three original settlers of Potapoug Point, an area that approximately encompassed current Essex Village. Most of Essex (as well as Deep River and Chester) was initially known as the Potapoug Quarter of the Saybrook Colony. In 1852, Essex became a separate town, although combined with current Old Saybrook. Indeed, it was called Old Saybrook from 1852 to 1854, when on May 9th of that year the State Legislature voted to further divide the town, establishing the towns of Essex and Old Saybrook. In 1859, the Centerbrook (Ivoryton) section of Saybrook was added to Essex.

The initial gristmill dam in town was built at the mouth of the Falls River by Samuel Hough in 1689, and was followed 10 years later by another dam in Centerbrook, at the point of the greatest "drop" in that stream. This dam powered not only a gristmill, but also a sawmill and iron works. This established Center Saybrooke (Centerbrook) as the focal point of the three-town area. The emphasis was on agriculture and the rich soil of the "Scotch Plains" (along Route #153) fit perfectly. In 1722, the Colonial Court allowed the creation of the 2nd Ecclesiastical Society, in effect formally establishing Essex as a town. The Congregational Church in Centerbrook, built in 1790, is the oldest standing church in Middlesex County and a visual reminder of the founding of our town.

The Essex Village section of town grew in importance with the advent of shipping and shipbuilding. Although a wharf had been in operation at the riverfront as early as 1664, it was not until the latter part of the 18th century that Essex emerged as a place of maritime significance. The construction in 1775/1776 of the "Oliver Cromwell," Connecticut's first "battleship," by Captain Uriah Hayden set the tone for future events. Between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, more than 600 wooden sailing vessels were built in Essex (including Deep River Village). The British raid on the harbor on April 8, 1814, is testament to the maritime importance of our area. They destroyed 28 vessels, including five built as privateers. It was one of the worst defeats the American side suffered during the War of 1812. The coming of the steamboats locally in 1823, when they first stopped in town, may have initially seemed a blessing, but in the long run the steamship symbolized a great change in ship construction and the way people traveled.

The handmade wooden sailing ships fell victim to the progress of the Industrial Revolution, and the village of Ivoryton became the economic center of Essex. Samuel M. Comstock firmly established the ivory industry in that section of town and by 1862, in partnership with George A. Cheney, had formed Comstock, Cheney & Co. This factory dominated local life for almost 100 years, manufacturing piano actions and keyboards, as well as other ivory artifacts. Ivoryton was not named as such until the 1880s, having been known as West Centerbrook up to that time. During World War II, this company (then called Pratt, Read & Co.) employed thousands, producing gliders for the U.S. Government.

Since that time, Essex has changed dramatically. The advent of the interstate highway system and the growth of pleasure boating have made Essex a destination point, both for travel and residency. The large factories are gone and shipbuilding is only a note in the history books, but the town has taken on a new focus. It is largely residential, and many retail operations have opened in

Centerbrook, where the center of town was 300 years ago. Essex carries its past very well. Many old houses have been restored, the old roads are still intact, and most importantly, residents are aware and respectful of what Essex once was. It is a town of three villages, of which we can be both currently and historically proud.

Don Malcarne, Town Historian

Essex Data

GOVERNMENT:

Board of Selectmen..Three member Board with minority representation.

Board of Finance.....Six member Board with minority representation.

Town Meeting.....Legislative branch of Essex local government.

LOCATION:

Middlesex County....Located on the CT River..

Three villages: Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton.

Bounded on the north by Deep River, on the west by Westbrook and on the south by Old Saybrook.

Longitude: 72 20W

Latitude: +41 20N, 12.2 Square miles

POPULATION....Approx. 6,500

WEBSITE: essexct.gov

Boards

Board of Selectmen – 2 Year Term

Philip J. Miller (D) First Selectman	Nov. 2003 - Nov. 2005
Norman M. Needleman (D) Selectman	Nov. 2003 - Nov. 2005
Vincent A. Pacileo III (R) Selectman	Nov.2003 -Nov. 2005

Board of Assessment Appeals

Anne J. Dougherty	Nov. 2003	Nov. 2009
Frank J. Flores	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2007
Richard Helmecki	July 6, 2005	Nov. 2005

Essex Elementary Board Of Education - 6 yr. term

Keith Dee	2003-2005
Linda Douglas	1999-2005
Kathleen A. Maher	2001-2007
*Mary Louise Polo	2001-2007
Lon J. Seidman	2003-2009
Mark P. Watson	2003-2009

Board of Finance - 6 yr. term

Keith Bolles	Nov. 2007
*James D. Francis	Nov. 2009
W. Campbell Hudson	Nov. 2007

Joel B. Marzi	Nov. 2005
Lee A. Rowley	Nov. 2005
Frederick M. Vollono	Nov. 2009

Regional #4 Board of Education

Terry G. Stewart	Nov. 2009
Richard Stebbins	Nov. 2005
Ellen W. Wexler	Nov. 2005

Zoning Board of Appeals-3 yr term

Alexander Daddona	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2006
Douglas Demarest	May 10, 2004	Dec. 1, 2005
Seth Fidel	Mar. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006
*Stuart Ingersoll	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2007
Barbara Sarrantonio	Dec. 26, 2002	Dec. 1, 2005

Alternates - Zoning Board of Appeals

William Doane	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2007
Lynn Faulstick	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2006
Susan Nilsen	May 10, 2004	Dec. 1, 2005

Commissions

Conservation Commission - 3 yr term

Nancy Arnold	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2006
Neill Bovaird	Nov. 15, 2004	Dec. 1, 2005
Douglas Demarest	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2007
Richard Murray	Nov. 15, 2004	Dec. 1, 2005
Anne Penniman	Dec. 26, 2002	Dec. 1, 2005
*Kay Tucker	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2006
Vacancy		

Alternates

Robert Graulich	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2007
Mary Ann Pleva	July 20, 2005	Dec. 1, 2007

Economic Development Commission-2 yr term

John Beveridge	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006
William Foster	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006
*Lon Seidman	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005
Lee Thompson	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005
David Winstead	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006
Mark Uihlein	Dec. 15, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005
Vacancy		

Essex Housing Authority - 5 yr term

Edna M. Appleby	Apr. 15, 2003	Dec. 31, 2007
Dawn Boulanger	May 18, 2005	Dec. 31, 2009
*Bruce S. MacMillian	Jun. 17, 2004	Dec. 31, 2005
Marybeth Stebbins	Dec. 31, 2003	Dec. 31, 2008
Vacancy		

Harbor Management Commission-3 yr term

*Jeffrey Going	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2007
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W. Schieferdecker	Dec. 1, 2003 Dec. 1, 2006
John Senning	Dec. 1, 2003 Dec. 1, 2006
Walter Wiegert	Dec. 1, 2002 Dec. 1, 2005
Joseph Zaraschi	Jan. 21, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007

Alternates - Harbor Management Commission

Mark Faulstick	May 12, 2003 Dec.1, 2005
Earl Fowler	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007

Inland Wetlands Commission - 3 year term

Nancy Arnold (Con. Comm)	Dec. 1, 2002 Dec. 1, 2005
Laura Champion (Plan Rep)	Dec. 1, 2002 Dec. 1, 2005
*Charles Corson, at large	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007
Daniel Lapman, at large	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007
Robert Shickel, at large	Dec. 1, 2003 Dec. 1, 2006
Susan Uihlein (Zoning)	Dec. 1, 2003 Dec. 1, 2006
Vacancy at large	

Alternates - Inland Wetlands Commission

Frits Zernicke	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007
Vacancy	

Park & Recreation Commission - 3 year term

Elizabeth Easley	Dec. 1, 2002 Dec. 1, 2005
Charmagne Eckert	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007
Cecilia Freundlich	Nov. 15, 2004 Dec. 1, 2005
Michael Holmes	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007
*Donald Mesite	Dec. 1, 2003 Dec. 1, 2006
James Rawn	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007
Jeffrey Vernon	Dec. 1, 2002 Dec. 1, 2005

Alternates - Park & Recreation

James W. Carey	Feb. 16, 2005 Dec. 1, 2005
Jack Lima	Nov. 15, 2004 Dec. 1, 2006
Richard Weiner	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007

Planning Commission - 5 year term

Laura Champion	Dec. 1, 2000 Dec. 1, 2005
Raymond Gastil	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007
Linda Herman	Dec. 1, 2002 Dec. 1, 2007
August Pampel	Dec. 1, 2001 Dec. 1, 2006
*Russell Smith	Dec. 1, 2003 Dec. 1, 2008

Alternates - 3 year term

Carla Feroni	Dec. 1, 2003 Dec. 1, 2006
Alan Kerr	July 20, 2005 Dec. 1, 2005
Ralph Monaco	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2007

Sanitary Waste Commission-2 yr term

Eric Bierrie	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2006
Paul Kotowski	Dec. 1, 2004 Dec. 1, 2006

* Henry May	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005
John Moran	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006
Robert Potts	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005

Alternates - Sanitary Waste Commission

Randel Osborne	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005
Alvin Wolfgram	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006

Water Pollution Control Authority-2 yr term

Eric Bierrie	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006
Paul Kotowski	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006
Henry May	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005
*John Moran	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006
Robert Potts	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005

Alternates – Water Pollution Control Authority

Randel Osborne	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005
Alvin Wolfgram	Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2006

Zoning Commission - 3 year term

Anthony Chirico	Apr. 26, 2004	Dec. 1, 2007
David King	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2006
Linda Savitsky	Dec. 1, 2002	Dec. 1, 2005
Susan Uihlein	May 16, 2005	Dec. 1, 2006
*Jeffrey Woods	Dec. 1, 2002	Dec. 1, 2005

Alternates - Zoning Commission

Daphne Nielson	July 20, 2005	Dec. 1, 2005
Hope Proctor	July 20, 2005	Dec. 1, 2005
Linda Levene	July 20, 2005	Dec. 1, 2005

Committees

Essex Elementary School Building Committee

Richard Godwin
Michael Hammond
Joel Marzi
Stanley Sheppard
Anthony J. Shea
Leonard Wyeth

Retirement Committee - 5 year term

Carl W. Ellison	Sept. 2005
Paul Fazzino	Sept. 2005
Vincent Pacileo	Sept. 2005
*Linda Savitsky	Sept. 2005
Ellen Wexler	Sept. 2005

Education

Regional Board of Education – 6 Year Term

Terry Stewart	Nov. 2001-Nov. 2009
Richard W. Stebbins	Nov. 1999-Nov. 2005
Ellen W. Wexler	Oct. 2004-Nov. 2005

Regional District #4 Administrators

Superintendent of Schools.....Dr. Thomas Forcella
 Business Manager.....Stephen Spires
 Dir. of Curriculum and Instruction.....Barbara Senges
 Director of Pupil Services.....Kathleen Onofrio
 Valley Regional High School.....Alan Frishman
 Associate Principal.....Gail Luciano
 John Winthrop Middle School.....David Russell
 Associate Principal.....Richard Zuraw
 Essex Elementary School.....Dr. Joanne Beekley
 Assistant Principal.....Deborah O'Donnell

For Your Information

American Red Cross 347-2577

Auditors

Carlin, Charon & Rosen
 628 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury 06033

Child and Family Agency 767-0147

Comcast Cable TV Advisory Board

Lon Seidman

Consulting Engineer

Robert Doane, Jr.
 Doane-Collins Engineering Associates, LLC

CT River Estuary Regional Planning Agency-2 yr term

Carla Feroni	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005
Raymond Gastil	Dec. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2005

CT River Gateway Commission -2 yr term

Fred Vollono	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2006
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Alternate

Edward Marlowe	July 1, 2004	July 1, 2006
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Department of Environmental Protection

860-566-3338

Emergency Management Director

William Buckridge

Emergency Planning Committee

Joseph Bombaci
 Keith Nolin, Fire Chief
 Wm Buckridge, EMS Dir.
 Judith Reynolds, EMS Chief
 Christopher Goff, MD
 Carol Speer

Emergency Medical Services Council

Judith Reynolds Feb. 2005 – Nov. 2006

Essex Land Conservation Trust Board

Chester Arnold	Barbara Edwards
Jenifer Grant	Paul Greenberg
Lynn Herlihy	David Hyde
Alan MacGregor	Alison Marcinek
John Matthiessen	Samuel Powell
*Bill Reichenbach	Barbara Sarrantonio

Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. 388-5796**Harbor Master**

Paul Riggio

Deputy Harbor Master

Ernest M. Libby

Health Department Director

Christopher W. Goff, M.D.

Humane Society 1-860-442-8583**INFO Line of Middlesex County** 388-9941**Justices of the Peace**

Virginia C. Cook	767-1096
Charles N. Doane, III	767-1562
Paul B. Dubey	767-1833
Linda K. Dwyer	767-8381
Lynn C. Faulstick	767-0777
Earl J. Fowler	767-2764
David W. Galligan	767-1860
Bruce M. Glowac	767-0650
JoAnn Greenwood	767-0019
Jean R. Hanor	767-1962
Donna M. Hyde	767-0061
Shelley H. Mack	767-7812
Philip J. Miller	767-7837
Norman M. Needleman	767-9176
Douglas W. Paul	767-3094
Albert N. Rogin	767-0702
Lee A. Rowley	767-7210
Raymond A. Rubenbauer	767-2514
Linda R. Savitsky	767-3076
Elizabeth G. Schellens	767-1046
Dorothy M. Shugrue	767-7642
Kay Tucker	767-0397
William P. Veillette	767-8519
Kenneth A. Wexler	767-3388
Ingjerd E. Wigdel	767-1981

Libraries (Shared facilities Sept. 2005 - Sept. 2006)

Essex Library 767-1560

Ivoryton Library 767-1252

Monday Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Summer: Closes Saturday at 1 p.m. – Closed Sunday

Policial Parties

Democratic Town Committee

Josephine Bombaci	Phil Miller
Joseph Bombaci	Norman Needleman
Jim Carey	Mary Ann Pleva
Matt Cooper	Christopher Riley
Anthony Chirico	Dennis Robida
William Doane	Lee Rowley
Carl Ellison	MaryAnn Rowley
Lois Ely	Lon Seidman
Seth Fidel	Stanley Sheppard
Earl Fowler	Lawrence Shipman
Jim Francis	James Spallone
Campbell Hudson III	John Stannard
Ray James	Kay Tucker
Jane James	Fred Vollono
Jonathan James	Alvin G. Wolfgram

Republican Town Committee

Susie Beckman	Sue Nilson
Ken Bombaci	Margaret O'Connell
Herb Clark	Winifred Olson
Alexander Daddona	Vincent Pacileo
Paul Dubey	Richard Rybak
Lynn Faulstick	Betty Schellens
Jim Hill	Marshal Schofield
Ken Kells	Terry Stewart
Joel Marzi	Mike Terry
George Mayer	Tom Timmeny
Sarah Meister	Ken Wexler
Andy Morris	Virginia Williams
Neil Nichols	

Poison Control 1-800-343-2722

Post Offices

Essex Post Office 767-8476

Mon. - Fri. - Lobby: 6 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Window: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday - Lobby: 6 a.m. - 3 p.m., Window: 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Centerbrook Post Office 767-8730

Mon. - Fri. - Lobby: 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m./2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Window: 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m./2:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday - Lobby: 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Window: 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Ivoryton Post Office 767-8515

Mon. - Fri. - Lobby: 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Window: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - Lobby: 6:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Window: 8 a.m. - Noon

Regional Mental Health Board

Winifred Olson

Salvation Army 1-860-543-8400

Shoreline Soup Kitchens 388-1988

Social Security 1-800-772-1213

Essex Elementary School School Hours:

Kindergarten Morning Session 8:25 a.m. – 11:12 a.m.

Kindergarten Afternoon Session 12:12 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Grades 1-6 8:25 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., School Office (Mon. – Fri.) 7:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. School

Playground is supervised during lunch recesses.

Emergency Closing of School: In the event of severe or unusual weather conditions, the Superintendent of Schools will contact radio stations WTIC, WLIS, WCNX and WDRC, as well as television stations WFSB, WTNH and WVIT.

Town Counsel

David M. Royston

Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, P.C.

15 Elm Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Town Historian – Reappointed Annually

Donald Malcarne Jan. 2005 - 2006

Tree Committee

Helene Johnson

Walter Lynn

*Samuel Powell

Mary Ann Rowley

Timothy Smith

Tree Warden

August Pampel

Tri-Town Youth Service Center 526-3600

Visiting Nurses 767-0186

IMPORTANT DATES

July 1st - Start of Fiscal Year -

1st Tuesday in November - Election Day

3rd Monday in November - Annual Town Meeting

January 1st - Second payment of taxes due

2nd Monday in May - Annual Budget Meeting

June 1st - Dog licenses due

June 30th - Fiscal Year Ends

WHERE TO OBTAIN

Building Permits, ***Building Department***

Dog Licenses, Sportsmen Licenses, Marriage Licenses,

Copies of Birth and Death Certificates, ***Town Clerk***

Pistol Permits, ***Resident State Trooper's Office***

Pump Out Tickets, **Sanitation Department**
Passports, **Probate Office**
Raffle Permits, **Selectmen's Office**
Health Permits, **Health Department**
Social Services, **Selectmen's Office**

Town Directory

The **Essex Town Hall** is open 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Call 767-4340.

The **Probate Court** is open 9 am to 3 pm, Monday through Friday

The **Landfill and Recycling Center** is open 7 am to 3 pm, Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Selectmen's Office

Philip Miller, 1st Selectman
Cindy Varricchio

Ext. 114 pmiller@essexct.gov
Ext. 112 cvarricchio@essexct.gov

Animal Control Officer

Joe Heller

Cell: 388-7082, Pound: 767-3219

Assessor

Jessica Graves, Assessor
Betty Bevan

Ext. 124 jgraves@essexct.gov
Ext. 123 bbevan@essexct.gov

Building Official & Fire Marshal

Keith Nolin
Betty Holcomb

Ext. 117 knolin@essexct.gov
Ext. 144 bholcomb@essexct.gov

Central Services & Maintenance

Fred Hall
Mark Hiatt, John Schumacher

Ext. 136 maintenance@essexct.gov

Health & Sanitation

Carol Speer, Sanitarian
Wendy Brown-Arnold
Cheryl Haase

Ext. 118 cspeer@essexct.gov
Ext. 143 warnold@essexct.gov
Ext. 119 chaase@essexct.gov

Highway Department/Public Works

David Caroline, Director of Public Works

767-0715 dcaroline@essexct.gov

William Angier, James Danks
Richard Gallacher, Patrick Gorman
Larry Whipple

Landfill/Recycling Center

Mike Birner
Wilbur Armstead, Earl Brown

767-1926

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Lynne Beetz

Ext. 110 lbeetz@essexct.gov

Police Services

Resident State Trooper

767-1054

Officer Patrick Bowers
Officer Russell Gingras
Officer Marc Piscioti

pbowers@essexct.gov
rgingras@essexct.gov
mpiscioti@essexct.gov

Marine Patrol Boat Operators:

Joe Heller, Keith C. Nolin, Mark Watson

Probate Court

Deborah Pearl, Judge
Valerie Shickel
Stella Beaudoin

Ext. 126 dpearl@essexct.gov
Ext. 125 vshickel@essexct.gov
Ext. 111 sbeaudoin@essexct.gov

Registrars of Voters

Lois Ely
Elizabeth Schellens

Ext. 142
Ext. 142

Tax Collector's Office

Nancy Stadalnik, Tax Collector
Patricia Maclean

Ext. 120 nstadalnik@essexct.gov
Ext. 121 pmaclean@essexct.gov

Town Clerk's Office

Frances Nolin, Town Clerk
Dana Novorio

Ext. 129 fnolin@essexct.gov
Ext. 128

Treasurer's Office

Robert Dixon, Treasurer
Kelly Sterner

Ext. 127 rdixon@essexct.gov
Ext. 121 ksterner@essexct.gov

Zoning Enforcement

Marian Staye, Zoning Enforcement Agent

Cheryl Haase

Ext. 115 mstaye@essexct.gov
Ext. 119 chaase@essexct.gov

Federal Officials

President George W. Bush, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500, (202) 456-1414,
www.whitehouse.gov/ president@whitehouse.gov

Congressman Rob Simmons, 2 Courthouse Square, 5th Floor, Norwich, CT 06360, (860) 886-0139
Ext. 511, 215 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-2076

Senator Christopher Dodd, 100 Great Meadow Road, Wethersfield, CT, 06109, (860) 258-6940, 800-334-5341, www.senate.gov/-dodd/
senator@dodd.senate.gov

Senator Joseph Lieberman, 1 Constitution Plaza, 7th Floor, Hartford, CT, 06103, (860) 549-8463,
706 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, 800-225-5605, www.senate.gov/-lieberman senator@lieberman.senate.gov

State Officials

Governor M. Jodi Rell, 210 Capitol Ave. Rm. 200, Hartford, CT 06106, (860) 566-4840, 800-406-1527,
email:governor.rell@po.state.ct.us, <http://www.ct.gov/>

Lt. Governor Kevin B. Sullivan, State Capital Rm. 304, Hartford, CT 06106,
www.ct.gov/lsgovksullivan

Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, State Capital Suite 104, Hartford, CT 06106, (860) 509-6000,
www.sots.state.ct.us/

State Treasurer Denise Nappier, 55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106, (860) 702-3000
www.state.ct.us/ott/

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, 55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106, P.O. Box 120, Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0120
(860)860-808-5318, email: attorney.general@po.state.ct.us, www.cslib.org/attygenl/

State Comptroller Nancy Wyman, 55 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106, (860) 702-3300 ,
www.osc.state.ct.us

State Senator Eileen M. Daily (*33rd District*), 103 ColdSpring Dr., Westbrook, CT 06498, (860) 399-7342; Legislative Office Building,
Rm. 2100, Hartford, CT 06106 800-842-1420, www.senatedems.state.ct.us/daily *State Representative*
36th District

State Representative James F. Spallone (*35th District*), P.O. Box 408 Essex, CT 06426, (860) 767-8615;
Legislative Office Building
Rm. 4016, Hartford, CT 06106 1591, 800-842-8267, (860) 240-8585, www.cga.state.ct.us/hdo

Town Meeting Schedule

Essex Board of Education

Meets at the Essex Elementary School, Centerbrook
Second Tuesday of Each Month 7:45 p.m.

Essex Housing Authority

Meets at the Community Building, Essex Court, Centerbrook
First Monday of Each Month 7 p.m.

THE FOLLOWING MEET AT THE TOWN HALL

Board of Finance

Third Thursday of Each Month 7 p.m.

Board of Selectmen

First Wednesday 4:30 p.m. and Third Wednesday 7 p.m. of Each Month

Conservation Commission

Second Thursday of Each Month 7 p.m.

Democratic Town Committee

Fourth Wednesday of Each Month 7:30 p.m.

Essex Land Conservation Trust

Second Monday of Each Month 7 p.m.

Harbor Management Commission

Fourth Thursday of Each Month 7:30 p.m., Third Thursday Nov., Dec.

Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission

Second Tuesday of Each Month 7:30 p.m.

Park and Recreation Commission

First Wednesday of Each Month 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Second Thursday of Each Month 7:30 p.m.

Republican Town Committee

Second Wednesday of Each Month 7:30 p.m.

Sanitary Waste Commission

Second Monday of Each Month 7 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Third Tuesday of Each Month 8 p.m.

Zoning Commission

Third Monday of Each Month 7:30 p.m.

Water Pollution Control Authority

Second Monday of Each Month 7 p.m.

Essex Community Fund

Second Wednesday of Each Month 6 p.m.

Board of Assessment Appeals

In September 2004, the Board conducted one Motor Vehicle meeting. There were two appeals.

In March 2005, the Board conducted two public meetings to hear taxpayer grievances regarding Real Estate and Personal Property assessments. There were 20 appeals. The Board also met for one workshop in March to deliberate decisions fairly and equitably on each appeal.

On April 11, 2005, the Board met to finalize all business for the year.

The function of the Board of Assessment Appeals is to ensure taxpayers a proper, fair and equitable interpretation of existing assessment guidelines established by the four-year property revaluation mandate. Inequities or errors are considered and adjusted if indicated.

Lois A. Eby, Chairman

Frank J. Flores

Anne J. Dougherty

ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Essex Board of Education consists of six members, elected for six-year terms in alternating years. The primary role of the board is to develop, adopt, and monitor school policies, hire the superintendent and establish the budget for each school year. The board works closely with the administration to provide the very best education for the children of Essex. Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from September through June at 7:30 p.m. in the school Media Center. Meeting agendas are posted in advance at Town Hall and on the bulletin board outside the school cafeteria.

Current board members are as follows:

Mary-Louise Polo, Chairman

Kathleen Maher, Vice Chairman

Linda Douglas, Secretary

Keith Dee

Lon Seidmon

Mark Watson

The total operating budget for the 2004-2005 school year was \$5,585,481, reflecting an increase of 5.73% over the prior year.

Two of the major events in our school community this year were the appointment of a new superintendent of schools and the passage of the Essex Elementary School bonding referendum. We are very pleased to welcome our new superintendent of schools, Dr. Thomas Forcella, who assumed the position, upon the retirement of our longtime superintendent, Dr. John Gillespie. This year Dr. Forcella launched a major strategic initiative aimed at developing a unified vision for all Region 4 schools in order to advance our district. Board members have participated in this process to plot the future direction of Essex Elementary and all Region 4 schools, along with community members, staff, parents and students. The long-range plan will be written this summer for presentation to the staff and community in September.

On May 17th citizens of the town turned out to support the bonding referendum for the renovation of Essex Elementary School. The Renovation Committee did an outstanding job of identifying necessary improvements in infrastructure, space renovation and reconfiguration, and health, safety and security. Plans were shared with the community and the referendum passed. We are very thankful for the support of education in our town.

Mary-Louise Houghton Polo, Chairman

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance is comprised of six members who serve six year terms. The current Board consists of Joel B. Marzi and Lee A. Rowley whose terms expire in 2005, Keith Bolles and W. Campbell Hudson whose terms expire in 2007 and James D. Francis and Frederick M. Vollono whose terms expire in 2009.

The Board of Finance meets the third Thursday of each month. It is the responsibility of the Board of Finance to consider the financial aspects of Town Government as a whole; to restrain wasteful and extravagant expenditures; to exercise care for a properly balanced budget; to establish to mill rate and to oversee the annual Town financial audit.

The Board of Finance works closely with the Board of Selectmen, the Town Treasurer, the Essex Board of Education and the Region 4 Board of Education in financial matters.

In the coming year the Board will be working on the renovation plan for the Essex Elementary School as well as continued long-term financial planning for the Town.

James D. Francis, Chairman

Region #4 Board of Education

The Region 4 Board of Education, working collaboratively with the Superintendent of Schools and the Region 4 Administrators, established specific goals and related actions for the 2005 school year. The four major goals created were adopted by all School Boards in the Region.

Goals 2004-2005

1. To provide a high quality education that meets individual student needs.
2. To develop and implement a K-12 educational vision that is shared by all stakeholders.
3. To create a climate of collaboration and trust across the K-12 district.
4. To create and maintain a safe and respectful environment

Among the highlights relative to the goals were the many accomplishments of our students. Academic teams from both VRHS and JWJHS distinguished themselves in such areas as debate and speech by winning regional and state awards. Students from our Art program earned recognition at local, regional and state competitions. In the academic area students at Valley and at John Winthrop continue to score above the average on State Tests. Over 50% of the students at the high school participated in athletics and several teams finished at the top of the Shoreline Conference.

Revisions were made to the Health, World Language and Science curriculums. A new supervision and evaluation model based on job performance was created for administrators. Web sites have been improved and increased opportunities for teachers to collaborate were initiated. Several programs were instituted at both Valley and John Winthrop to teach the importance of tolerance and respect.

The Region 4 budget was among the lowest percentage increases in the state at 2.87%. An early retirement incentive assisted the Board in getting to that low level of increase. Ten Region 4 teachers opted for the early retirement which translated into substantial savings for the schools.

The future looks bright for the schools with renovated and updated facilities in place coupled with a new K-12 mission/vision and long term strategic goals that focus on student learning and instruction. During 2005-06 John Winthrop will create a School Improvement Plan with specific goals and actions that relate to the district mission and vision. Valley Regional will spend a significant portion of the year preparing for an accreditation visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Rick Stebbins, Chairman

Board of Selectmen

The three member Board of Selectmen are elected citizens who serve two year terms. The current Board consists of First Selectman Philip Miller, and Selectmen Norman Needleman and Vincent Pacileo. Election day is November 8, 2005.

The Board meets twice monthly to discuss and decide on policy, appointments to Commissions, and the yearly budget. The Board of Selectmen work closely with the Board of Finance. Most decisions reached by these two Boards then proceed to Town Meeting, where the citizens have the final say.

The 2005-2006 budget was determined in spring of 2005, and the overall budget increase was 3.87% and the mill rate was adjusted to 15.5. The increase went mostly towards a greater share of funding the operating costs of our libraries, and more work on our roads and sidewalks. More than two thirds of our budget goes to education, which is our number one endeavor. The rest goes to police, fire, ambulance, health, parks, land use, and other town services. The town presently employs some thirty five people on the municipal side, who are aided by volunteer elected citizen Board members and appointed citizen commissioners.

Essex Elementary School will be receiving ten million dollars worth of upgrades, as dictated by the overwhelming passage of a spring referendum vote. We finished an Economic Development survey, which indicated that there are nearly seven hundred businesses in our town. Our public restrooms, with state of the art Clivus composting technology, were completed this year. Our downtown Essex Main Street was repaved with new lights, sidewalks and granite curbs. Downtown Ivoryton received new lights. For the first time since the 1982 flood, we now have public swimming at the new Viney Hill Brook Park. All of these efforts could not have been possible without much help from dedicated volunteer citizens who work with our employees to get a lot accomplished. Their many contributions cannot be overstated.

Our regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility is running well, and several hundred of our households have safely removed toxic materials from home and garages. We are also implementing some of the early stages of the federally mandated Stormwater 2 program, which aims to assure our air and water quality by lessening discharges into our stormdrains and watersheds.

We now have two new ratified contracts with our Constables as well as our Public Works Crew. And the town clock, located in the Baptist Church steeple since 1860, is fully operational, chiming every hour.

Our town is very fortunate to be inhabited and invigorated by great citizens. Our long held standards of self reliance, responsive and responsible budgeting and appropriate stewardship continue to serve us well.

Phil Miller, First Selectman

Zoning Board of Appeals

The CT General Statutes grant specific powers and duties to the Essex Zoning Board of Appeals (EZBA): It is within the scope of the EZBA to determine and vary an application of the zoning regulations in harmony with their general purpose and intent, after due consideration for conserving the public health, safety, welfare, convenience and property values. The variance power involves review of all proposed activities within the Town of Essex which would make development in full accordance with the zoning regulations extremely difficult. In legal terms, the conditions must cause "exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship."

There were a total of 59 cases before the EZBA this year. The Board granted 54 variances and denied 5 variances. Three variance applications were withdrawn.

Stuart Ingersoll, Chairman

Conservation Commission

Of the three passive recreation areas that the Essex Conservation Commission oversees, Bushy Hill Nature Preserve received the most attention. Eagle Scout candidate, Patrick Welch, rebuilt the main bridge that scouts originally constructed twenty years ago. Aron Schumacher, another Eagle Scout candidate, crafted new footbridges parallel to the Falls River. The three bridges elevate hikers above the muddy trail yet allow water to flow under if stream levels exceed normal. Forty active members of Boy Scout Troop #12 spent 163 community hours covering the entrance path with wood chips, then filled a swale with flat rocks to slow water runoff and erosion. Our former commission member, Carl Kaufmann, mowed the open meadow..

Viney Hill Brook Preserve progressed more slowly. Trails marked last fall could not be cut this spring. Too many turtle eggs, too many birds' nests. However, topsoil and germinating wild oats cover the derelict garage slab, and new signs display guidelines for use of the designated passive acres. An excavated area is available for parking. A wooden guard rail fence will be set along the recently surveyed boundary of the preserve and the right of way road at Cedar Grove Terrace Extension.

At the Book Hill Woods entrance to Canfield Woods, bittersweet and other invasive vines threaten the health of the young pines planted there several seasons ago. If you frequent the trail and can volunteer an hour, please call us.

Sam Powell resigned in May due to relocation. New members, Neill Bovaird, Robert Graulich, and Rich Murray, meet with Nancy Arnold, Doug Demarest, Anne Penniman, and Kay Tucker. The commission meets at Town Hall the second Thursday of each month. The commission also meets on site to remove brush, plant trees, and sow native ground cover. Public attendance is welcomed.

Kay Tucker, Chair

Economic Development Commission

The Essex Economic Development Commission (EDC) was formed by a town meeting in 1998 with a simple mission: serve as an advocate for local businesses and work to preserve an adequate balance between business and residential properties.

We are very excited about the completion of the streetscape improvements in the Essex and Ivoryton villages. The project is the result of a \$486,000 grant from Connecticut's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). The improvements include new pavement, sidewalks, and granite curbing along Main Street in Essex, and new street lamps for both the Essex and Ivoryton villages. EDC members Lee Thompson and John Beveridge deserve special recognition for their work in the grant's acquisition and implementation.

An economic development study was commissioned by the EDC and completed earlier this year. The study, completed in June, provides an accurate and comprehensive picture of our local economy as well as smart ideas to help make it stronger. The full study is available online at www.essexct.gov. We welcome your input.

The EDC is making excellent progress on parking. This year a number of additional parking spaces were freed up in the Essex Village thanks to a new off-street parking lot for merchants. We worked with The Estuary Transit District on the establishment of a new shuttle service, which we hope will connect the Essex Steam Train and other attractions to our villages. We continue to work with our elected officials on the construction of a new commuter parking lot off Route 9 Exit 4.

We are always eager to help existing and prospective companies do business in Essex. The EDC meets at 2:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at the Essex Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

The Essex Economic Development Commission members are Lon Seidman, John Beveridge, Bill Foster, Lee Thompson, Mark Uihlein, and David Winstead.

Lon Seidman, Chairman

Essex Housing Authority

The Essex Housing Authority manages Essex Court, an affordable public housing complex for elderly and disabled residents located in Centerbrook, CT at 16 Main Street. Our seniors independently reside in one of our 36 garden-style units. Our community building is air conditioned, with a fully-equipped kitchen, library annex of the Essex Public Library, a piano and a separate laundry room. We are within walking distance of a grocery store, deli, pharmacy, drycleaner, garden shop, and several restaurants and other services. We are visited by Meals on Wheels, public transportation and other senior services.

Essex Court is professionally managed by Westford Real Estate Mgt, LLC. In January of 2005, Westford was hired to replace EHA's part time Executive Director. This change has resulted in lower operating costs for Essex Court, improved maintenance of the complex, and an improvement in the residents' quality of life. Together, EHA and Westford work toward providing a safe and comfortable environment for residents to successfully age in place, protect and increase the property's value, as well as build community and agency relationships for the betterment of the residents and the town.

In March of 2005, EHA received a \$220,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. This grant was used to upgrade the complex's emergency fire response and call-for-aid systems, repave the sidewalks, upgrade toilets to include water saving devices, install new entry/kitchen lights and install a handicapped accessible entry door to the Community Building.

Essex Court accepts applications during its "open application season" from June 1st to June 30th of each year. Application requests as well as more detailed information about our community is available on our website: www.essexhousingauthority.org

Commissioners as of June 30, 2005

Edna Appleby

Dawn Boulanger

Bruce MacMillian

Mary Beth Stebbins

Harbor Management Commission

The Harbor Management Commission is responsible for the management of Essex Harbor, including the coves and mooring fields. Each year we work with Paul Riggio, Harbormaster, to ensure the safe and efficient layout of the mooring fields in the river and coves. In addition, the HMC is responsible for the Town's public access points.

During the 2003/2004 year the HMC undertook a project for maintenance dredging of portions of the main harbor that have shoaled. The permit application was submitted to Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Bottom samples have been taken and analyzed. The Corps of Engineers approved the project in July of 2005. The application remains at DEP. This project will be financed by the HMC, the Town of Essex and by a group that includes Essex Yacht Club and the marinas. Each entity will pay one third of the project cost.

The Essex Harbor Management Commission joined with other commissions and town representatives from the Gateway area in a committee to review dock standards as authorized by the State Legislature – PA 04-183. Essex served as co-chair with Old Saybrook. This committee recommended that the DEP require all applications for permits and improvements have drawings certified by a licensed professional and all such applications have the approval of the affected town commission. The committee was not able to develop dock standards due to a lack of funding. The committee continues to meet.

The HMC was instrumental in solving several dock permit issues during the year. All meetings are open to public comment and the HMC welcomes the opportunity to improve access and the use of the harbor for all.

Jeffrey Going, Chairman

W. Schieferdecker, Vice Chairman
John Senning
Joseph Zararchi
Walter Wiegert, Treasurer
Marl Faulstick, Alternate
Earl Fowler, Alternate
Paul Riggio, Harbormaster, Ex-officio
Cy Libby, Deputy Harbormast

Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses

The Essex Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission (EIWWC) has adopted regulations in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 440, 22a-36 through 45 as amended per State of Connecticut legislature.

The EIWWC reviews all proposed activities within wetland areas, within 60 feet of wetland soil delineation, and within 100 feet of watercourse as defined by their regulations. During this year, the Commission conducted 6 site walk inspections and issued 35 Permits. The Permits issued composed of 32 single family residential applicants and 3 industrial/commercial applications. The majority of the Permits involved activities within the regulated upland area to wetlands.

The Commission is comprised of the following members: Charles Corson, Acting Chairperson, Daniel Lapman, member-at-large, Rob Shickel, member-at-large, Laura Champion, Planning Commission representative, Nancy Arnold, Conservation Commission representative, Susan Uihlein, Zoning Commission representative, Fritz Zernike, alternate.

Park & Recreation Commission

The Essex Park and Recreation Commission administers ten park facilities:

Hubbard Field – Used primarily by Essex Little League baseball. Beach volleyball installed July 2003. Basketball hoop. Storage & concession facilities.

Comstock Field – Baseball and soccer. Two baseball diamonds, one regulation size.

Essex Town Green – General public use, summer concerts, farmers market, arts & crafts shows, Garden Club. New restroom facility planned for Spring 2005.

Ivoryton Park – General public use. Summer concerts. Pumpkin Festival.

Grove Street Park – Playground with extensive equipment. Walking track. Two lighted tennis courts with practice backboard. Basketball hoop.

Elementary School – Two unlighted tennis courts. Softball diamond.

Sunset Pond – Leased to Town and used for picnics, model boat races, and ice skating.

Clark Pond – Passive recreational use. Picnic table. Small dock for fishing.

Dickinson Park – Small, intimate park; ideal for weddings or family reunions. Once part of historic estate.

Viney Brook Park – New Town Park for both active

and passive recreation. Active development underway for a beach & swimming facility, picnic tables, and hiking trails in summer 2005.

The Commission supports and administers the following programs:

Youth (grades 1-6) Summer Program (Elementary School)

Summer Concert series (Essex & Ivoryton Parks)

Fall Kindergarten Soccer (Comstock Field)

Youth (grades 1-6) Winter Basketball (Elementary School)

Easter Egg Hunt (Grove Street Park)

Coffee House (Ivoryton)

Essex Family Day (Ivoryton or Grove Street Parks)

Youth tennis & adult yoga instruction (Elementary School & Town Hall)

The Commission takes an active role, and encourages full usage of Town facilities. An operating budget of \$152,485 was allotted for park maintenance and support of program activities in 2005/06.

The acquisition of the Viney Hill Brook property, along with the development of a beach/swimming facility, has created Essex's newest park recreational initiative. \$15,200 was expended in the 2002-2003 fiscal year for Schematic Design and Cost Estimation. Capital improvement funds in the amount of \$289,000 are currently being utilized for development. Follow-on operation, and maintenance funds approved for fiscal year 2005/06 amount to \$11,190. The park, along with its swimming facility, is planned for opening in early July, 2005.

Comstock and Hubbard fields infields were professionally restored in 2005, and favorable comments have been received from the baseball organizations as to current field maintenance.

The Essex Main Street Park (Town Green) has deteriorated due to prior years of inadequate maintenance, high usage, vehicular traffic, and lack of an irrigation system. The Commission has engaged the professional services of a Landscape Architect for Master Planning, and development of restoration specifications. An operating budget, including a pledge from the Essex Garden Club, is in place totaling about \$21,000.

Essex will continue to offer the best recreational facilities that the Town's operating budget can provide; and encourages feedback from residents, and active participation in Commission meetings.

Report contents approved by Park & Recreation Commission.

Alan F. Miller, Director

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is composed of five regular members and two alternates. Russell Smith was reappointed Chairman, and Laura Champion was reappointed Vice Chairman. Other full commission members are Linda Herman, August Pampel and Raymond Gastil. Ralph Monaco and Carla Feroni are alternates. The Commission meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The Commission also holds special meetings, site walks and workshops.

During the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the Planning Commission reviewed and approved one subdivision request, reviewed two preliminary plans for subdivisions, as well as approving modifications to three subdivisions.

The Commission also reviewed numerous Town projects including the public restrooms at the Main Street green, Viney Hill Brook Swimming Pond project, and the Elementary School renovations. The Planning Commission also made recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding bond releases for roads and requests for public road classifications. In addition, the Commission commented on various proposed zoning regulation changes and the acquisition of property by the Essex Land Conservation Trust.

The Planning Commission held open the public hearing on the proposed Plan of Conservation and Development for approximately ten months to facilitate comments on the Plan. After a few modifications, the Plan was adopted on April 28, 2005. Final copies are being printed and will be available this fall.

The Planning Commission is beginning a review of the Town's subdivision regulations for potential changes. The Commission is also reviewing the need for Affordable Housing and how that can be accomplished in Essex. The Essex Planning Commission continues to pursue areas for open space and to review current regulations for possible changes to manage growth and enhance our sewer avoidance program.

Russell Smith, Chairman

Sanitary Waste Commission

The Essex Landfill/Recycling Center continued to run smoothly and under budget serving our citizens in the last year. The facility, exit 4 off Route 9 on Dump Road, is under the direction of Carol Speer, Town Sanitarian; Mike Birner, Landfill Supervisor; and his assistant Earl Brown.

Our new traffic pattern and road paving completed in 2004 have resulted in a better and safer traffic flow. The Betty Pierson "Take It or Leave It" shed was replaced with a new shed this spring. The space for refrigerators (the doors are taken off when they arrive) was enclosed in a fence for additional safety and appearance.

Leaves brought by Essex residents to the leaf pile area are composted and the mulch is available to Essex residents at no charge.

The Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA) Household Hazardous Waste Facility is adjacent to our facility and is open 16 Saturdays from May through October. Call 388-3497 for detailed information.

The Sanitary Waste Commission meets the second Monday of each month at 7 pm immediately following the Water Pollution Control Authority meeting in Room B at the Essex Town Hall. Visitors are welcome. The Commission members are: E. Peter Bierrie, Paul Kotowski, Henry May, John Moran, Robert Potts, and Alternates Randel Osborne and Alvin Wolfgram. We welcome your comments.

Henry May, Chairman

Water Pollution Authority

The lagoons remain closed for the second year and engineering studies in preparation for their permanent closure are being initiated. It is anticipated that under the direction of the DEP this will be completed during the next fiscal year.

Haulers now using disposal facilities outside Essex continue to report their activities, thereby allowing us to maintain accurate data on septic system maintenance. By mail we remind residents who have not had their systems pumped in five years that by regulation they are required to do so.

Bi-annual testing at surface and groundwater sites continues and the results are reported to the DEP as requested by their order.

The WPCA meets the second Monday of each month at the Town Hall at 7 pm. Visitors are welcome.

The membership of the WPCA follows: Peter Bierrie, Paul Kotowski, Henry May, John Moran, and Robert Potts. Alternate Members are Randel Osborne and Alvin Wolfgram.

John Moran, Chairman

Zoning Commission

The Zoning Commission is composed of Chairman Jeffrey Woods, Vice Chairman David King, full members Anthony Chirico, Linda Savitsky, and Susan Uihlein (Secretary). During the 2004-2005 fiscal year, Stanley Sheppard resigned as an alternate member. The Commission generally meets the third Monday of the month (unless there are scheduled holidays). The Zoning Commission is primarily responsible for developing and enforcing the Essex's Zoning Regulations as well as reviewing and approving (or disapproving) special permit applications.

During the fiscal year 2004-5, the Zoning Commission approved eleven special exception applications with conditions and disapproved one special exception. In addition, the Commission approved one coastal management application for a site plan for a single-family house, one zoning boundary change so that the entire Town-owned Viney Hill Brook Park was in the Rural Residence zone, and approved two changes to the Zoning Regulations.

In the next fiscal year, the Commission anticipates further review of the Zoning Regulations as well as continued review of special exception applications.

Jeffrey Woods, Chairman

Essex Elementary School Building Committee

It was a busy and eventful year for the Essex Elementary School Renovation Committee. Carried over from last year was the information gathering efforts. Working closely with the architectural firm of Arbonies, King & Vlock along with the engineering firm of VanZelm Haywood & Shadford, the committee submitted to the Selectmen our recommendations for the necessary renovations to the Elementary School. The Selectmen then forwarded the report to public hearings. There were three public hearings where the public was given an opportunity to comment and ask questions. At the same time the Board of Education voted unanimously in favor of the recommendations. After hearing all of the feedback from the public hearings, the selectmen then sent the recommendations

to a referendum for the total value requested. In a June referendum the public voted in favor of the necessary renovations totaling \$10,130,000.

After the renovation committee had completed its original mission, the selectmen then disbanded the committee and in a public hearing in July formally reappointed all the members to the new building committee with an additional member, Joe Shea. When the newly formed committee meets, the first task will be to draft a request for architectural services to complete the documents. The timeline for construction is a start at the end of the school year 2006.

Respectfully submitted
Stanley E. Sheppard, Chairman

Essex Elementary School

Next to the quest for peace, our nation's most important goal is the development of a high quality educational experience for all children. In order to achieve our goal, we must believe in common values. On April 1st over 300 people representing teachers, parents, community leaders, community members and students congregated into the social hall at the Temple Beth Shalom in Chester to spend a day discussing the future of the Essex, Chester, Deep River and Region 4 schools. The event was called, "Dream for the Future" and served as the kickoff to the long range planning process for the Region 4 Schools. The information gathered at the workshop will be used by a Design Team to craft a vision statement, shared beliefs and long range goals.

This school year, steady improvement in student achievement, as measured by the Connecticut Mastery Test, was noted. A balanced literacy curriculum supported students in reading and writing development. The mathematics curriculum encouraged students to think about ways to solve problems. Students were also expected to master basic calculations and use standard algorithms as they progressed through the grades.

During the 2004-2005 school year, a committee worked to improve the Early Intervention Process. Through this process, students are monitored closely and provided with support in areas where they are struggling. The refinement of the process for identifying students who meet criteria as gifted and talented was undertaken, as well. This will help support students who need to be challenged academically through classroom differentiation as well as needing enrichment through special projects. Both of these changes will better meet the needs of individual students.

The focus for the future is on excellence. As we move forward with the renovation project and innovative curricular initiatives, we welcome visitors to our school.

Joanne D. Beekley, Ed.D., Principal

Superintendent of Schools

The Regional School District No. 4 had an official student population during 2004-05 of 880; 328 students at John Winthrop Junior High School, 548 at Valley Regional High and 4 placed in out-of-district institutions. Our net operating budget for 2004-05 was \$11,538,740 and our debt service costs were \$2,527,275, for total gross expenses of \$14,066,015. We had 36 certified employees at John Winthrop and 60 at Valley.

The District's three construction projects have progressed substantially during the 2004-05 school year. The new administration building was completed and occupied in February of this year. Both the John Winthrop and Valley Regional projects should be close to completion for the start of school in September.

The schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 have embarked on an exciting PK-12, long-range planning initiative during the 2004-05 school year. A shared mission, goals and beliefs have been written and will be presented to the school boards in September. These will serve as a basis for decision making in the years to come.

The graduating class of 2005 consisted of 109 students, 71 of whom plan to attend four-year colleges, 14 will be attending two-year colleges, 7 will be at vocational schools, 11 have found employment 2 will be in military service, 2 will travel and 1 will return to his/her former country.

In the latest administration of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) taken by our tenth graders in the spring of 2004, their average mathematics score was 266.8 with a goal of 261 being the goal set by the state.

The average science score was 261.2 with the goal being 261; the average reading score was 270.9 with a goal score of 258, and the average writing score was 266.6 with a goal score of 250.

The eighth graders took the Connecticut Mastery Test in the fall of 2004. Their average scaled score in mathematics was 268.3 with a goal of 246, an average reading score of 283.3 with a goal of 235, and an average writing score of 288.6 with a goal score of 239.

Thomas A. Forcella, Superintendent of Schools

Emergency Management

We have been busy making the change from the old Office of Emergency Management to the new Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, training staff and bringing everyone up to speed.

The Town Emergency Management is active with three other groups. The first group is Valley shore Emergency Management, Inc., made up of ten of the local towns and meets every month. This group will host a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training series starting some time in December.. There will be more information in the papers.

We are also active with CEMA, made up of all the Emergency Management directors in the state. Additionally, we are involved with the Small Pox clinic, whose name recently has changed to Mass Dispensing Clinic Region 35.

If you are interested in HELPING or being part of the training, please call town hall and leave your name and phone number.

Over the years we have had great help and support from all the town agencies. I would like to thank the Fire Department, Ambulance, Essex Health Department, Constables and Town Crew.

Special thanks to Scott Wisner for his nine years service to the town. He did a great job and was a big help.

Thanks to Joe Bombaci, Joe Heller, Nate Goodwin and Rick and Sandi McCury for being a great bunch to work with.

William Buckridge, Director

Fire Marshal and Building Official

Office of the Fire Marshal

During the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 the Fire Marshal's Office investigated all fire related incidences that the Essex Fire Engine Co. No. 1 responded to, as well as follow-up inspections. Yearly inspections were conducted on all health care and liquor establishments. A total of 10 Blasting Permits were issued and the Burning Officer issued Burning Permits for residents to burn brush only. This office also submits the National Fire Incident reports (NFIRS) to the Bureau of State Fire Marshal's Office. We would like to take this opportunity to remind residents to check their smoke detectors for proper operation and remember to install fresh batteries when you change your clocks.

Keith C. Nolin, Fire Marshal

Office of the Building Official

During the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 a total of 680 building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of \$15,154,826.00. Permit fees for the fiscal year totaled \$167, 075.00. Included in this total were 9 new single family homes. Construction consisted of new construction, alterations, roofing, plumbing, heating, electrical, and propane gas installations.

As of September 1, 2004 the State of Connecticut has adopted the International Residential Code for one and two family dwellings. Contractors and homeowners are invited to stop in and pick up a handout describing the significant changes from the previous code.

If you have any building related questions, please feel free to call me at 767-4344, ext 117, and to schedule inspections please call the Permit Clerk at ext. 144 and leave your permit number, address, and type of inspection needed.

Keith C. Nolin, Building Official

Health Department

The Essex Health Department is concerned with all aspects of environmental and public health in the Town of Essex. These include permitting and inspection of wells, septic systems, restaurants, day care and nursing home facilities, salons, and public swimming pools. The department investigates food-borne illnesses, communicable diseases, toxic lead cases, sewage breakouts and other potential nuisance situations. Our staff made almost two hundred food service, salon and public swimming pool inspections during the past year.

We perform soil testing and review engineered septic plans for all new buildings and subdivisions in Essex. Although new housing starts have declined in the past two years, building additions and renovations have increased significantly. The Public Health Code requires review and permitting of all building additions, changes in use, lot line changes and proposed accessory structures such as pools and sheds.

The Essex Health Department, in conjunction with the Essex Water Pollution Control Authority, oversees a wastewater management program. The purpose of this program is to safeguard the surface and subsurface waters of Essex through a program of routine inspection and maintenance of private septic systems.

During the past year, we have been actively involved in developing a GIS capability for the Essex Town Hall, and will shortly launch a web-based GIS site for use by residents, commissions and businesses. In addition, we have made available to residents information on a variety of topics such as radon, mold and mildew, lead poisoning, tick and mosquito-borne illnesses, food safety, vaccine clinics, well water testing and septic system maintenance.

We appreciate those agencies and officials in town who augment our efforts, especially the WPCA, the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, the Building Department, the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Animal Control Officer.

Christopher W. Goff, M.D., F.A.A.P., Director of Health

Carol L. Speer, R.S., Chief Sanitarian

Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Each of Connecticut's 169 towns is required by law, pursuant to *Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-127b*, to appoint a Municipal Agent for the Elderly to serve a two year term. The Elderly Services Division of the Department of Social Services has the responsibility for assuring that the provisions of the Municipal Agent Statute are carried out by the Municipalities. The Municipal Agent is required to provide seniors, and those who wish to help them, with information on available programs and resources, and to guide them to the Community, State and Federal agencies that provide the assistance they need.

The Selectmen's Office at Town Hall has available the information needed to apply for Federal and State benefits such as winter heating assistance, renter's rebates, food assistance, financial assistance, housing, Conn-Pace, and Medicare Supplemental Options. Additionally, information regarding social security, legal services, exercise and nutrition, transportation, senior clubs, adult daycare, home healthcare, education, employment and volunteer opportunities can be obtained from this office.

The Municipal Agent attends training sessions, meetings and seminars coordinated by the Connecticut Department of Social Services and other organizations that assist seniors. The Municipal Agent is required by statute to report statistics on the inquiries received during the year. This information is reported annually to the Department of Social Services and to the First Selectman. This past year, 39 residents received fuel assistance and 32 residents received a renter's rebate. Additionally, this office received numerous inquiries for other services such as the Medicare Prescription Drug Card, transportation to medical appointments, food stamps and State Supplemental Programs.

Lynne Beetz, Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Probate Court

The Essex Probate Court is located at the Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex and is open Monday through Friday 9:00AM to 3:00PM with other hours by appointment. Judge Deborah M. Pearl is the Probate Judge and Valerie N. Shickel is the appointed Court Clerk. Stella Beaudoin is the Assistant Clerk.

Matters handled in the probate court include decedent estates, children's matters, conservators for incapacitated individuals, guardians of mentally retarded individuals, adoptions, name changes for adults and children, reviews of trustee accounts, passport applications, and other family sensitive issues.

The probate court is a statutory court and powers given to the probate court come from the State of Connecticut. General powers of the probate court may be found in C.G.S. 45a-98, 99. Uniform costs charged by the probate court are based upon state statutes, which may be found in C.G.S. 45a-105 through 45a-112.

The Essex Probate Court processes United States passports. The application fee for persons age 16 and over is \$55.00 and a security surcharge is \$12. A check or money order made payable to The Department Of State in the amount of \$67. There is a separate execution fee of \$30 in the form of a check or money order made payable to Essex Probate Court. The application fee for persons age 15 and younger is \$40 and a security surcharge is \$12 with a check or money order made payable to The Department Of State in the amount of \$52. The execution fee is the same as noted above. Passports can be expedited for a government service fee of \$60. There are very strict regulations regarding procedures for issuing passports for children 14 years of age and younger. The National Passport Information Center toll free number is 1-877-487-2778. Additional information can be obtained at www.travel.state.gov.

The Essex Probate Court for year ending 2004 processed 41 testate estates, 4 intestate estates, 22 small affidavit estates, 56 trust matters, 5 conservatorships, and 16 matters involving children.

Please feel free to drop by the Essex Probate Court for information, forms, or to discuss your questions.

Deborah Pearl, Judge of Probate

Public Works

Our public works department has been busy with maintaining our infrastructure and with projects to improve our recreation and transportation. The winter had many snowstorms and each of our fleet trucks averaged about 175 miles per storm. We put two new Ford diesel automatics on line to a good effect and our garage staging area ran well.

We are replacing an aging backhoe with a new piece of equipment that will likely give us many years of good dependable service. Other newer pieces are often used, maintained and washed in our collector bay on a daily basis to promote lengthy service.

Our public works operators and laborers have a new long term contract that came from a well intentioned negotiation process. We continue to maintain and upgrade our facilities, and we have taken particular pride in the work done to create a new park with clean and attractive public swimming at Viney Hill Brook. We are increasing our work with the federally mandated Stormwater II program to protect our stormdrain outflows and watersheds. Individual citizens can greatly help by limiting lawn care treatments to natural substances and using the Household Hazardous Waste Facility to rid homes, garages, and yards of potentially environmentally damaging compounds.

David Caroline, Director of Public Works

Registrars of Voters

The Registrars of Voters are elected under State Statute, working under The Secretary of State to see that the Election Process works in Essex at all times. This includes the following:

1. The responsibility for keeping the Voter Registry up-to-date. The Registrars must accept applications from new voters, admit those qualified and place their name on the Registry List. They must also remove those who have moved away or have died.

2. The responsibility for conducting elections, Primaries and Referendums. This year a Presidential Election, a Primary and three Referendums were held. All were handled smoothly and efficiently. The Registrars appreciate the dependable service of the Moderators and Mechanics who must attend periodic certification courses. They make the Elections, Primaries and Referendums run according to State Statutes. The Registrars thank all those who work at the Polls for their capable and dependable service.

3. The responsibility for conforming to State Statutes, attending State Conferences to keep current on State legislation and regulations, and making Reports to The Secretary of State.

It was a busy year!

Lois A. Ely, Elizabeth Schellens, Registrars of Voters

Resident Trooper/Essex Police

The Essex Resident Trooper's Office consists of the Resident State Trooper and Essex Police. The Resident State Trooper is provided to the Town of Essex by the Connecticut State Police through a contractual agreement. The Resident Trooper supervises the daily operations of the Essex Police, which currently consists of four Essex Police Officers. Additionally, three Boat Operators supplement the Essex Police to staff the marine patrol.

By virtue of participation in the Resident Trooper program, the Town of Essex has access to the wide spectrum of Connecticut state Police resources. Troop F in Westbrook provides radio communications and prisoner facilities, and a field office is maintained in the Essex Town Hall for the convenience of the Essex citizens.

During 2004 (calendar year), there were 162 criminal investigations in Essex, covering a wide variety of offenses. 148 motor vehicle accidents were also investigated, and it should be noted that this figure includes accidents that occurred on Route 9 within the Town of Essex.

The most serious crimes are referred to as the Index Crimes, and are tracked by the F.B.I. as part of the Uniform Crime Report (U.C.R.). These crimes include murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and stolen motor vehicles. There were 44 index crimes in Essex during 2004.

One measurement used to gauge the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies is the "clearance rate". This rate measures the percentage of reported crimes that are "solved" and result in an arrest. During 2004 the clearance rate for Essex was 34.1 %.

The clearance rate for crimes not tracked by the U.C.R. (such as vandalism, narcotics violations, simple assault, etc.) was 72.8%. There were 128 criminal arrests in Essex during 2004.

Motor vehicle enforcement activity continues to be a high priority in Essex. 2004 saw an increase in both infractions and written warnings that were issued. Targeted areas are those where citizen complaints area received, and/or areas of high accident rates. Grant funding supported additional hours of patrol time during FY 04/05, with an emphasis on D. U. I. and motor vehicle enforcement. Four Ford Crown Victoria cruisers (2004, 2003, 2000, 1998) and a patrol boat (23' Parker) are currently owned by the Town of Essex.

Jeff Conto, Resident State Trooper

Town Clerk's Office

This past Fiscal Year, 2004-2005 the Town of Essex had eight Town Meetings, eight Public hearings, one State Election, and two Referendums for Regional District #4. There was one new ordinance adopted this fiscal year.

The following is a list of recordings for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year for the Town of Essex:

Birth Certificates	55
Death Certificates	105
Dog Licenses	786

(Kennel License 2)	
Land Records	2,627
Marriage Certificates	64
*Sports Licenses	320
Subdivision Maps	3
Survey Maps	25
Trade Names	40

* If you are 65 years of age, or older, you are entitled to receive a free fishing or hunting license.

Conveyance Tax collected in the amount of \$276,199.71 was deposited to the General Fund.

The land records for thirty (30) years are now available on computer to the public in our office. This office was awarded a \$7,000 Grant from the State Library to continue preserving old vital records that are retained in this office permanently. A new dog licensing system was installed and is currently being used this fiscal year.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are a Veteran please be sure to file your DD-214 (Discharge) with this office by September 30th in order to receive the Veteran's exemption.

Residents may apply for admission as electors at the office of the Town Clerk on a daily basis or with the Registrar of Voters.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us. We hope to provide you with the best possible service and appreciate your support.

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

Dana J. Novorio, Assistant Town Clerk

Town Counsel

During the past year this office handled a variety of legal matters of significance to the Town. These included drafting Ordinances regarding various issues, including a leash law, and issuance of permits for demolition of historic buildings. The pleadings have been closed on the Town's Quiet Title action with respect to property at the end of New City Street, and the matter has been claimed to the Trial List. The Trail has been rescheduled to October 18, 2005.

There were eighteen tax appeals filed against the Town of Essex. To date, two have been withdrawn, three have been settled and the remainder are pending in various stages of the litigation process.

There is currently only one personal injury claim against the Town pending. This matter is defended through the Town's insurance coverage. By Ordinance, no matter may be settled prior to adequate notice to and review by the Board of Selectmen.

David M. Royston, Town Counsel

Assessor's Report

2004 Grand List Annual Report

GRAND LIST	2003	2004
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Real Estate

Gross	\$907,123,400	\$917,066,500
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$1,429,500	\$1,365,000
Veteran's Additional	\$663,750	\$637,500
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	\$ 222,000	\$180,000
Blind	\$21,000	\$18,000

	Disability	\$-	\$4,000
	Other	\$800	\$800
Net		\$904,786,350	\$914,861,200

Personal Property

Gross		\$30,147,648	\$30,896,504
Exemptions:			
	Farm & Mechanics	\$2,470	\$19,880
	Manufacturers*	\$4,494,090	\$4,094,910
	Misc.	\$340	\$300
Net		\$25,650,748	\$26,781,414

Motor Vehicle

Gross		\$53,660,480	\$58,940,400
Exemptions:			
	Veteran's	\$164,910	\$159,140
	Veteran's Additional	\$56,460	\$59,970
	Vet. Add. Reimb.*	\$1,780	\$-
	Disability	\$-	\$1,000
	Other	\$-	\$-
	Manuf. Truck Reimb.*	\$198,400	\$1,557,630
Net		\$53,238,930	\$57,162,660

Totals

Gross		\$990,931,528	\$1,006,903,404
Exemptions:			
	Veteran's	\$1,594,410	\$1,524,140
	Veteran's Additional	\$720,210	\$697,470
	Vet. Add. Reimb.*	\$223,780	\$180,000
	Blind	\$21,000	\$18,000
	Disability	\$-	\$5,000
	Other	\$3,610	\$20,980
	Manufacturer & Truck*	\$4,692,490	\$5,652,540
Net		\$983,676,028	\$998,805,274

*Partially Reimbursed by State of Connecticut

October 1, 2004	Gross	\$1,006,903,404
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<u>Category</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
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<u>Real Estate</u>	\$917,066,500	91%
Res.	781,290,200	85%
Comm.	102,438,700	11%
Ind.	32,890,400	4%
Use	447,200	0%
	\$917,066,500	100%

<u>Personal Property</u>	\$30,896,504	3%
<u>Motor Vehicle</u>	\$58,940,400	6%
		100%

Comparative Grand Lists - Net Taxable

<u>Item</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	
			(+) or (-)
Real Estate	\$904,786,350	\$914,861,200	\$10,074,850
Personal Property	\$25,650,748	\$26,781,414	\$1,130,666
Motor Vehicle	\$53,238,930	\$57,162,660	\$3,923,730
Total	\$983,676,028	\$998,805,274	\$15,129,246

Tax Revenue Comparison

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Net List	\$983,676,028	\$998,805,274
Mill Rate	0.0149	0.0155
	\$14,656,773	\$15,481,482

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Graves, CCM&I
Assessor

Important annual dates for the Assessors Office

- February 1 We begin accepting Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner applications. In order to qualify for this program your total income including Social Security must be less than \$27,100 for a single person or \$33,000 for a married couple. Applications are available in the Assessor's Office. Proof of income is required.
- May 16 Deadline for applying for the Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner benefit
- September 1 We begin accepting applications for PA 490 (Farm, Forest, & Open Space) land classification
- September 30 Deadline for Veteran's to file their DD214 with the Town Clerk to obtain exemption on the October 1st Grand List
- November 1 All Personal Property Declarations must be filed by this date to avoid a 25% penalty.

Mill Rates

1988 27	1989* 9.9	1990 11.25	1991 11.25	1992 11.25
1993 11.75	1994 12.25	1995 13.2	1996 13.5	1997 14
1998 14.5	1999* 16.75	2000 16.75	2001 18.25	2002 20
2003* 14.9	2004 15.5			

*Revaluation

Year indicates Grand List year

Tax Collector

For the Grand List October 1, 2003 (mill rate 14.9),
collection figures are as follows:

Real Estate	\$13,451,514.89
Personal Property	379,700.57
Motor Vehicle	780,789.37
Motor Vehicle Supplements	115,564.78
Total Collections	14,727,569.61
Adjusted Collectible (Decrease)	(77,949.09)
Taxes Collectible	14,649,620.52
Taxes Received	14,552,149.69
Balance Due as of June 30, 2005	97,470.83
Percent Collected	99.3347%
Total	\$14,799,014.85

Total collections received and given to treasurer as
of June 30, 2005 (includes collections from all grand
lists, interest, and lien fees for the fiscal year)

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Stadalnik, Tax Collector, CCMC
Patricia Maclean, Assistant Tax Collector, CCMC

Ambulance Association

It's hard to believe another year has passed. Most importantly we want to thank our residents and businesses for their continued support. The past year has been especially hard on our equipment with the severity of the weather and a large portion of our yearly budget has been spent on vehicle and equipment maintenance and upgrades. We continue to work hard at raising funds to pay down the loan on our 2003 ambulance.

It is also important that we thank our members and their families for the sacrifices they quietly make all year serving their community. The challenges our members meet every day responding to calls for assistance are ever increasing. In our changing world our members have had to commit to many additional hours of training for the situations they may be faced with. It takes special people to accept those risks and be committed to providing quality care.

Our members responded to over eight hundred calls in 2004. These calls included medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, cardiac arrests and psychiatric emergencies. We also responded to provide assistance at fire scenes in Essex and surrounding towns, emergency medical response as requested to our mutual aid towns, and assisted at local civic functions, including the Hot Steam Music Festival, Deep River Muster, Chester Road Race and Kid's Safety Day at Middlesex Hospital's Shoreline Medical Center.

Training in the areas of special adjuncts to our BLS skills and care issues of our senior citizens will be the focus this year. Our members spend many hours training and practicing these special skills.

With the generosity of our supporters we continue to operate without tax funds from the town or state. Our operating budget is acquired through donations, memorial gifts and billing. The members of the Board of Directors and Corps would like to thank everyone for their support, without your assistance we would be unable to continue to operate. We are always looking for exceptional people to join our Corps. If you think you might be interested in being a member contact us at our headquarters.

Once again, special thanks to all our supporters and best wishes for a healthy and safe year.

Judi Reynolds, Chief of Service

Nathaniel Goodwin, Deputy Chief

Joseph Bombaci, President Board of Directors

CATV Council V

The Cable Television Advisory Council is a DPUC mandated commission consisting of volunteer citizens throughout Comcast of Clinton's service area (including Essex). We meet every other month at the Westbrook Town Hall.

Over the last year the DPUC completed its investigation of Comcast on its accounting practices related to the cable access television studio in Clinton. The investigation began with a complaint raised by Council, which resulted in Comcast purchasing additional equipment to modernize the facility. We will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that Comcast is abiding by the terms of its franchise agreement.

The Council awarded a \$1000 grant to the Valley Regional High School for the purchase of video production equipment. The equipment will be used by VRHS students to produce a regular television program to air on the educational access channel (channel 18). The Council created the grant program to encourage area schools to produce more programming for our local cable access channels.

Finally, we continue to advocate on the behalf of Comcast customers. We helped resolve a number of billing and customer service disputes local customers had with the company. Should you require assistance, please write to the Cable Television Advisory Council, c/o Westbrook Selectmen's Office, 866 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, CT 06498.

Child and Family Agency

Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut is about children. Our mission is to promote the well-being and development of all children and their families, in particular to give priority to the unmet needs of children lacking physical, emotional and intellectual care and

nurturing. Child and Family Agency has made a significant difference in the lives of children-in-need and their families since 1809.

Our Essex office is a licensed Child Guidance Clinic providing parent-child counseling services, home-based clinical services and consultative services.

Last year, Child and Family served over 10,000 children birth to eighteen and their families in 67 towns throughout Middlesex and new London Counties. Our Essex office has averaged 100 people served annually in Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton and 802 people throughout Middlesex County.

Child and Family appreciates the support received from the Essex Community Fund, area United Ways, the Essex Savings Bank's Community Investment Program, private foundations, local businesses and individuals, and state and federal agencies and the efforts of its own auxiliaries.

We thank the many Essex residents who have played vital roles in the shaping of this organization into the respected leader it is today.

The Essex Auxiliary is an active group of shoreline women who promote the mission of the Agency and raise unrestricted funds in the support of the services and capital projects of the Agency. Fundraising events have included a popular Spring Fashion Show, a gala evening at the Brick Gallery, a spring Kitchen Tour, and a biennial Holiday House Tour. Auxiliary membership is open to anyone interested in promoting the well being of children and their families. Interested persons should call Judy Lovelace at 860-443-2896, ext. 1403 or visit our web site at www.cfapress.org.

Judy Lovelace, Director of Resource Development & Community Relations

Connecticut River Gateway Commission

The Connecticut River Gateway Commission, which meets monthly at the CRERPA Office, was established in 1973 by State Statute to protect the scenic and environmental qualities of the Lower Connecticut River through a compact among the towns that border the River. The Commission actively participates in the acquisition of land and easements for conservation purposes. Gateway member towns have agreed to adopt common zoning standards for development in the area near the River. To date, the Connecticut river towns of Chester, Deep River, Haddam and Lyme have adopted the new standards into their Zoning Regulations. Recent revisions to the Gateway standards address the proliferation of large-scale development along the river. Fred Vollono of Essex chairs the Gateway Commission.

CONNECTICUT RIVER ESTUARY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (CRERPA)

CRERPA is supported financially from a variety of federal, state and local sources. The largest portion of the CRERPA budget continues to be the annual contribution of its nine member towns, with other major support coming from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, the State Office of Policy and Management, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

CRERPA continues to provide comprehensive planning services for the Estuary Transit District.

CRERPA continues to provide educational materials for canoers and kayakers through their Connecticut River Estuary Canoe and Kayak Trail program, developed since 1997 with grants from the DEP's Long Island Sound License Plate program. The Trail map series includes maps for waters of Old Lyme, Essex, Deep River and Old Saybrook. Free laminated trail guides can be found in local libraries, town halls, the DEP Marine Headquarters, North Cover Outfitters and at CRERPA.

CRERPA staff continues to assist member towns with local open space plans, which will serve as building blocks for a regional greenway plan. The regional greenway plan will be part of the background work for a new Regional Plan of Conservation and Development to be completed in 2005.

Essex Board Members as of June 30, 2005: Ray Gastil, Carla Feroni

The CRERPA Board meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Agency office in the Saybrook Junction Marketplace, next to the train station. Visitors are welcome to stop by during regular work hours and often do.

CRERPA STAFF: Linda Krause, Executive Director; Planners Torrance Downes, Jean Davies, Wini Olson and Judy Preston; Recycling Coordinator Amy Cabaniss; HHW Coordinator Ralph Eno; GIS Specialist Margot Burns; Financial Administrator Dorothy Papp; Office Manager Pat Anthony.

Connecticut River Museum

The Connecticut River Museum is a membership supported, educational institution that collects, preserves and celebrates the natural and cultural history of the Connecticut River Valley through year-round exhibitions and programs for adults and young people. Located in the National Register Listed historic 1879 Essex Steamboat Dock, the Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums. The campus includes the Stevens Library in the 1813 Hayden Chandlery and a recent education building known as the Boat House. Membership is open to all.

The Connecticut River Museum partnered with important regional organizations during this past year to enrich offerings for members and friends. The Essex Rotary Club chose the Museum as the recipient of their Rotary International Centennial project. This project provided safe walkway lighting along the Museum's waterfront and driveway. Rotary volunteers removed the plantings along the borders of the Museum's Wolcott Park and members replaced them with native plant material. With the cooperation of the Town of Essex, the project also installed matching street lamps along the drive. A compass rose and the restored Calves Island Channel Marker greets visitors at the expanded and welcoming entrance. The Board of Trustees, the staff and the membership send their sincere thanks to the Essex Rotary Club for providing this major enhancement to the property and for sharing in the preservation of the navigational aid.

The museum was pleased to partner with Essex Library and local yacht clubs in the highly successful lecture series, *Essex & the Sea*. Held at Essex Town Hall, the series attracted over flow crowds for the topical speakers. Performances of *Big River* at the Ivoryton Playhouse provided an opportunity to showcase the local theater with a member's evening and reception.

The Goodspeed Opera House was showcased through the 2005 exhibition, *William Goodspeed in a Century of Change*. Executive Director and producer Michael Price, the Opera House and its musical research library loaned objects and provided all kinds of support for the well-reviewed show that runs through February, 2006. In the other major exhibition of the year, the Museum partnered with Historic New England, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, and the Connecticut Humanities Council to bring *The Camera's Coast*, to the new third floor gallery. This show is a collection of historic photos of New England's changing waterfronts from the late 19th through the early 20th centuries.

The Connecticut River Museum's Summer Workshops filled up early this year, as usual, with five weeks of programs that range from archaeology to nature studies, to photography. The Museum brought programs to some 2500 Connecticut school students and provided paddles, hikes, talks and winter happenings to hundreds more.

Essex Art Association

The Essex Art Association located at 10 North Main Street provides the community with quality works of art in a beautiful, historic, professional setting. Our members and the community are provided with a well-run gallery, welcoming different levels of proficiency through the varied structure of our season. Each show has a new theme and character. Some shows accept submissions from the general public and others are open only to the Associations Elected Artists. All offer cash prizes.

We continue our 26 year history of hosting the Valley Regional High School Students show, awarding generous scholarships. Our season runs mid-April through September. Member artists can rent the space for a brief period before and after our show season. We are closed in the colder months as our antique building is not heated. The gallery is open every show day from 1-5 PM. Each show has an opening reception enjoyed by members and friends alike. This year we hosted an additional show, the Ivoryton Library's fundraising exhibit "Images of Essex."

Members are participants in the day to day workings of the Association. Our show chairs, receivers, and hangers accommodate a wide variety of art work. Our historic building was built circa 1837 as a meeting house and then used as a school house. It is a lovely place to show and a great place to sell, buy, and enjoy fine work, to meet fellow artists and art lovers, to discuss art work and careers in art, and to share the work of running a gallery.

The EAA welcomes professional as well as budding artists. The gallery is a place where new ideas can be expressed along with the traditional, giving our gallery its liveliness and unique character. We enjoy ourselves immensely and invite you to share the fun. For information call the gallery at 767-8996.

EAA Council Members: Rob De Bartolo-President, Judy Perry-Vice President, Nancy King-Secretary, Robert Gantner-Treasurer, Bruce Dasinger, Judith Heiser, Judith Hamilton Jerome, John Matt, Jill Vaughn. Gallery Co-Directors: Iris & Rick Silberberg.

Iris Silberberg, Co-director

Essex Community Fund

The Essex Community Fund, begun in 1940, continues its tradition of serving the villages of Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton. Our mission, "One Donation Touches So Many" was clearly demonstrated at our awards ceremony held in February. We awarded over \$30,000 to non-profit community organizations that directly support our villages.

The following are examples of the recipients and their plans to support our community: The Rushford Center submitted a proposal for funding outlining a two day workshop for fourth and fifth graders at Essex Elementary. The program was designed as an interactive session to educate children on tolerance, diversity and bullies. Another recipient is The VRHS Safe Grad Program which provides a safe place for our graduates to celebrate a major milestone in their lives. The Shoreline Soup Kitchen received matching funds to our grant which enables them to provide 37,000 meals. The Essex Historical Society used their funds for the Pratt House exhibit of the daily life of a farmer in pre-industrial Essex. The Community Music School will utilize our funding to provide scholarships to children. The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be provided with leadership training and pack activities. All of this would not be possible without your generosity.

In November please look for the "blue envelope" in the mail and our banner proclaiming, "Support Your Community Fund." Thank you for your continued support.

The Board of Governors is comprised of volunteers from the villages. Deborah Swaney-Jones, President, Ronald Nelson, Vice President, Tammy LeFoll, Treasurer, Lynne Beetz, Secretary, Daniel Kottke, Walter Lynn, Selene Sweck, Leigh Ann Rankin. We would like to invite you to volunteer to serve on our board, meeting the second Wednesday of each month at 6 PM at Town Hall. Please call Deborah Swaney-Jones at 767-0648 if you would like to serve.

Deborah Swaney-Jones, President

Essex Fire Department

The Fiscal Year 2004-2005 has been another busy year for our volunteers. We responded to 766 emergency calls. The majority of our responses were medicals totaling 505. Automatic Fire Alarms 106, some of which were False Alarms and System Malfunctions, 40 were Motor Vehicle Accidents, Hazardous Materials incidents 13, which included carbon monoxide detector investigations. The balance of calls were 59 good intent/smoke investigations, 2 vehicle fires, 3 public service, 8 wires down, and 30 Mutual Aid stand-bys to neighboring towns.

In addition to emergency responses, our volunteers attend weekly work details, monthly training and meetings, mutual aid training with surrounding towns, State Certified Firefighter Training, State Certified Medical Training, as well as Hazardous Materials Training. Anyone wishing to join our volunteer organization, please feel free to stop by on Wednesday nights and speak with an officer.

Officers for 2005-2006 are:

Chief

Keith C. Nolin

Deputy Chief

Ron Senn

1st Assistant Chief	Andrew Kressley
2nd Assistant Chief	Steven Olsen
Treasurer	Dennis Giroux
Recording Secretary	Penny Mack

Remember, to report an emergency, dial 911 and give complete information on the type and location of the emergency.

We would like to thank the townspeople as well as all government officials who have assisted us with our endeavors throughout the fiscal year.

We look forward to serving the community during the upcoming year.

Keith C. Nolin, Chief

Essex Garden Club

The Essex Garden Club is in its 53rd year and continues to work for the goals of stimulating interest in civic beautification, aiding in the conservation of natural resources, and furthering the knowledge of artistic use of plant materials. Our Club belongs to the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, the Southeast Council of Garden Clubs, and the National Council of State Garden Clubs. We have sixty active members, twenty associate members, and ten sustaining members. Our members work tirelessly for the benefit of Essex.

May Market was held this year on May 7th. The day was cold, windy, and threatening rain. In spite of the inclement weather, the ever-hardy gardeners of the Lower Valley were out in force to show their support! The profits from this event allow the club to contribute to many areas of our town.

The Civic Improvement Committee routinely works in Town Park, Dickinson Park, Town Hall, and in several traffic islands to plant, weed, and nurture these areas. We are indebted to the Town Crew for their support in these areas. Civic Improvement also provides hundreds of geraniums throughout our Town and decorates merchant window boxes with greens and berries during the holiday season.

This year we have worked to further build our relationship with the Park and Recreation Commission. The Garden Club is helping to fund a long range plan for the rehabilitation of Town Park. Several of our members put in many hours on the Town Park Long Range Planning Committee. Members of the Design Team helped develop plans for enhancing the Viney Hill Brook Project and an area at Hubbard's Field.

The Garden Club continues the tradition begun in 1987 of providing scholarships for local college students studying in fields related to the environment. This year we were able to help two well-qualified applicants with \$4000 worth of funding. We also donated scholarships for three children to attend Bushy Hill summer camp.

Our members take turns supplying fresh flower arrangements to the Essex Library each week. This year we purchased many new books on gardening, flower arranging, and environmental concerns for the use of all interested patrons.

Our Junior Activities program works with both Essex Elementary School children and Clubhouse to raise environmental awareness and the pleasures of growing things. The children have helped to plant a butterfly garden in the courtyard at Essex Elementary School and have learned about composting. Children at Clubhouse have been helping with establishing gardens in their new location. Groups of children were also taken out on the Connecticut River to study river life.

The Essex Garden Club continues to support the Essex Land Conservation Trust and many other non-profit programs which share our goals. Many thanks to the citizens of Essex for your continued support.

Daphne Nielsen, President

Essex Historical Society

The Essex Historical Society continues to be a strong organization committed to promoting an interest in history of Essex through education, preservation, acquisition, and exhibits. During this

past year we concentrated on our three near term objectives of historic structure preservation, collection expansion, and increased visibility. To that end, since last year's report the town implemented a "Delay of Demolition" ordinance. The ordinance has been successful in delaying destruction on a number of properties and in increasing our visibility and mission. We continue to expand our collections with the addition of over 300 items this past year. The "Archival Angels" remain hard at work cataloging recent acquisitions and managing our existing collection.

Education continues to be a cornerstone of our mission statement. The last year we held 7 evening lectures for the membership and general public. We also opened a wonderful new exhibit this past summer. The exhibit centers on early farming in the Essex area and is entitled "The Farmer and His Wife." Our volunteer docent staff advanced the visibility and education theme by dutiful providing tours of the Pratt House all summer long, and this year expanded hours to include the month of September.

Our historic properties continue to be well maintained. It takes money to maintain antique structures and so we held two successful fundraisers the past year. A wonderful evening and reception at the Ivoryton Playhouse and a "barn dance" held on the grounds of Pratt House. Great fun was had by all. We also received 3 grants through the generosity of various local foundations and corporations.

The society remains fiscally strong and our thanks go to all those that support our cause with their pocketbooks and/or valuable time. We invite everyone with an interest in Essex's history and preservation to join us. Membership and your involvement is a great way to meet new friends, and contribute with the volunteer spirit that makes this town so special!

Frank J Flores, President

2004-2005 Board Members included:

Officers: Frank J Flores, President; Pierre Boulanger, Vice President; Paul Worrall, Treasurer; Jenifer Grant and Joan Reichenbach, Secretaries.

Committee Chairs: Sam Rogers, Don Malcarne, Elaine Haughton, Jane Fuller, Barbara Hughes, Janice Atkeson, Nancy Gould, Barbara Zernike, Marla Bogaert, Lew Weinstein, Midge Lynn, Judy Kelsey, Phyllis Greenberg, Eve Potts, and Debbie Weinstein

Directors at Large: Stuart Warner, David Newbegin, Renate Houchin, George Graf, and Susan Nilsen.

Essex Parents and Teachers Organization

Mission Statement: Through the partnership of parents, children and educators, the Parent Teachers Organization is dedicated to enriching the lives of Essex Elementary students.

The ESS-PTO is a team of parents, teachers, and school personnel who work hand-in-hand to enhance school life at Essex Elementary School. The PTO counts on numerous volunteers to donate time, energy and financial support for various activities enjoyed by our students. These include, but are not limited to Cultural Arts programs, science programs, field trips for all grades, classroom enrichment materials as well as an after-school enrichment program.

The 2004-2005 Executive Board members include: Karen Burzin-President, Kristin Coombs-Vice President, Jackie Russo-Recording Secretary, Deb Van Wyngaarden-Treasurer, and Rona Malakoff-Corresponding Secretary.

Our Cultural Arts program is a series of creative performances that are enjoyed by the students as well as local nursery schools and Essex residents who are always welcomed to our events. Programs have included poetry, opera, string quartets, puppetry, and African folklore/music. Students this year had the opportunity to write a play. Two student plays were chosen and performed at the school by a New York City acting troupe.

Every October since 1969, we have hosted our Annual Harvest Festival. This family event is a day filled with games, crafts, tractor rides, the famous "kakewalk", and an auction of donated gifts. This community event is enjoyed by all Essex residents young and old.

The emphasis of our Fall Book Fair is to encourage reading. The Fair features children's and adult books, as well as a children's author and/or illustrator who works with the students during the school day and offers a book-signing/reading appearance in the evening.

This year's Science Invention Convention challenged children to use their creativity and design functional items. Inventions included a "get/got milk?" pop-up reminder, kitty treadmill, and remote controlled clothes "picker-upper".

Deb Van Wyngaarden, PTO Treasurer

Essex Land Conservation Trust

The land trust made a bargain purchase of a 7-acre island in the Falls River from Jean Leuchtenburg in the spring of 2005. The island adds to the land trust's 41-acres Falls River Preserve. The land trust is making a town-wide effort to raise funds to offset the costs of this purchase.

This year the land trust made a bargain purchase of 9.67 acres from Catherine Doane and the trustees of a trust under the will of August Neidlinger. The land, now called the Fern Ledge Preserve, is on the hill behind the Shoreline Clinic off Route 153, and will be accessible from there. The land trust is working to improve this property with trails and signs.

In December 2004, the land trust received a donation of 2.3 acres from Sherry and Herb Clark on the corner of Walnut and Main streets in Ivoryton. This donation links 2.3 acres donated by the Clarks in 2002 just west of Ivory Street and a 1.5-acre conservation easement donated by Moeller Instruments. The land trust now seeks to link these properties with a trail that will require at least one crossing of the Falls River.

With naturalist and First Selectman Phil Miller as guide, the land trust hosted a series of eight outdoor excursions that were free and open to the public. The land trust also held a number of volunteer work days on its preserves.

The land trust is a private, all-volunteer, non-profit charity organization. We are able to pursue our mission of conservation in Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton thanks to generous donations of funds, land, and volunteer hours. New members are always welcome! For more information, please write to the land trust at P.O. Box 373, Essex CT 06426 or email us at elct@comcast.net.

John Matthiessen, President

Board of the Essex Land Conservation Trust: Chester L. Arnold Jr., Jenifer Grant, Secretary, Paul Greenberg, First Vice President, William H. Grover, David Hyde, Treasurer, David Kelsey, Gudrun Lelash, Carol MacElwee, Alan W. Macgregor, John Matthiessen, President, Anne L. Penniman, William Reichenbach, Second Vice President, Sam Powell.

Estuary Council Of Senior Clubs, Inc.

This year the Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. celebrates *Thirty Years of Making a Difference* in the lives of active and homebound seniors. The past twelve months has been a time for reaching out to new people in our nine-town region as well as embracing those who have been part of the Council of Seniors. If your church or synagogue, service or social club, or professional group would like to learn more, call us at 388-1611. Our staff and volunteers are versed in many of the topics important to people 55 and older.

We are expanding volunteer opportunities with the Council of Seniors. If you have an interest in finance, fundraising, safety, transportation, or nutrition, then we have a place for you on one of our vital committees! The new Friendly Visitor program utilizes volunteers to visit homebound seniors; we provide training and support so you can become an informed 'friend.' Volunteer openings for Reception, Thrift Shop, and Meals On Wheels are always available. Learn about our volunteer opportunities via the United Way Volunteer Solutions or the national Volunteer Match websites. Visit one of our five cafés for lunch or come to our regional senior center in Old Saybrook for breakfast, an exercise class, or any one of our weekly and special programs.

Our goals over the next five years: 1) Expand our range of nine-town regional programs and services: adapting how we do business to meet the changing 55-year-old-plus population, 2) Continue

to broaden our base of funding, and 3) Reverse the fact that we have been one of the Shoreline's "Best Kept Secrets."

Thank you all for your support via \$30,000 in town funds and gifts from Essex Community Fund, Essex Savings Bank, and many, many individuals. Thank you as well for two active board members – Walter Miller, President and Lynne Beetz, member of the Fundraising and Policy committees. Much appreciation also to First Selectman Phil Miller for his continued support and interest.

Mitzi Eilts, Executive Director

Estuary Transit District

The Estuary Transit District (ETD) was formed in 1981 by the nine towns of the Connecticut River Estuary Region. These nine towns include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. The affairs of the District are managed by a board composed of one representative from each member town. Regular Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 8:00 A.M. in the ETD office at the Saybrook Junction Market Place, 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT. All meetings are open to the public. While programs are administered by the Estuary Transit District, services are provided under contract by DATTCO Inc. These services are the Shoreline Shuttle and the Transit-on-Call service.

The Shoreline Shuttle service operates on a flexible service route (fixed route with off-route stops available). Buses meet CTRANSIT's 'S' route in Madison. Free transfers allow riders to travel from New Haven to Old Saybrook for a \$1.25 fare/senior's fare \$.60. Transfers accounted for some 4,680 trips out of the total 26,404 trips recorded. In January ETD launched a redesigned service operated under the name of Transit-On-Call.

The program was marketed to a wider group of riders and service hours were designed to accommodate new customer needs. Services were provided from 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM. With these changes ridership grew from 80 trips in one month to over 600 and finished with 3,338 trips recorded for the year. ETD will continue to closely monitor this service. With the bulk of funding provided through State and Federal grants, ETD was able to provide roughly 30,000 trips to local residents at a cost to local towns of \$1.97 per trip. For the upcoming fiscal year we are projecting an overall increase in ridership of 10%.

Bill Foster, Essex Representative

Ivoryton Playhouse

The Ivoryton Playhouse was built in 1910 as a community hall for the workers of the Comstock-Cheney factory and as such it has always held a special place in the hearts of the residents of Ivoryton. In 1930, the hall was rented by Milton Stiefel and renamed the Ivoryton Playhouse and America's first self-sustaining summer playhouse was born. Since that time literally hundreds of the major theatrical figures of the era have trod the boards at the Playhouse.

Today, the Ivoryton Playhouse is owned by the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc., a Connecticut non-stock corporation with Section 501 (c) (3) status. It is managed by a board of Trustees and employs an executive director, business manager, a development director, a box office manager, a production designer and an office administrator, as well as actors and technical people as needed for productions. The annual revenue of approximately \$340,000 is generated through a combination of membership dues, rental income, grants, ticket sales and sponsorships.

Over the past couple of years, residents have noticed major changes at the Ivoryton Playhouse: new shingles, new air-conditioning system, new seats, state of the art lighting and sound system, extensive re-wiring and electrical upgrades, new dressing rooms, and a beautiful new patio and landscaping. The most important change for the community, however, is in the use of the building. The Playhouse is now a year-round facility, offering not just summer theatre, but also full year round subscription season of plays and musicals. Some of the highlights this year included sell-out performances of *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Big River* and *The King and I*, and critically acclaimed productions of *Amadeus* and *Inherit The Wind*. The Playhouse also hosted a variety of joint fundraising events to benefit local organizations including the Essex Historical Society and Connecticut Audubon Society.

The Ivoryton Playhouse 2005/2006 Season: *Red Hot & Cole*, book by James Bianchi, Muriel McAuley and Randy Strawderman, music and lyrics by Cole Porter, a scintillating mixture of biography and song, September 22 - October 9, 2005; *Stage Struck*, a fascinating psychological thriller first presented in the West End in 1979 with Alan Bates. *Stage Struck* is full of theatrical devices and until the very end you will never be sure of who is really dead and who is only acting dead, October 27 - November 13, 2005; *Toyland*, music by Victor Herbert, book and lyrics by Don Shirer. Join all your favorite Mother Goose characters in this world premier retelling of the famous Victor Herbert operetta, *Babes in Toyland*, freshly updated with new lyrics and book by Westbrook's Don Shirer, December 1 - 18, 2005; *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, winner of 4 Tony Awards, the Drama Desk, Drama League and Outer Critics Circle Awards, this darkly comic tale is set in the mountains of Connemara, County Galway. Maureen Folan, a plain and lonely woman finally has a chance of a loving relationship. Will her mother destroy her chances or will fate step in? March 2 - March 19, 2006; *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, Marjorie Taub, a middle-aged Upper West Side doctor's wife is suffering from a mid-life crisis of Medea-like proportions. She's shaken out of her lethargy by the reappearance of a fascinating and somewhat mysterious childhood friend, April 6 - 23, 2006; and *Gypsy*, the ultimate story about the ultimate stage mother. Join Rose, Baby June and Louise in their 1920's trip across the United States, when vaudeville was dying and burlesque was born, May 11 - May 28, 2006. For tickets and information, call 860-767-7318.

THE IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE FOUNDATION, INC. BOARD OF TRUSTEES & 2005 OFFICERS: President: Constance C. Tredwell, Vice President: Suzan Persutti, Treasurer: Norman Needleman, Secretary: Diane Mizejeski, Executive Director: Jacqueline Hubbard. Trustees: Beverley Galpin, Deborah Ratty, Norman Ratty, Milton Allen, Rosalind Hinman, Brian O'Connor, Nancy Smith, Wilma Asch, John Horn, Gino Origlia.

Essex Library Association

The Essex Library is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. In Fiscal Year 05 (July 1, 2004-June 30 2005) 35%, or \$112,000, of our annual operating funding was provided by the Town of Essex. We rely on donations to the annual Membership campaign, income from an endowment and donations from the Friends of the Library (an independent library support organization) for the remainder of our annual operating funds.

We are a free public library and serve all three villages of Essex. Borrowers can browse and select from our collection of over 24,000 books and 4,000 non-print materials such as books on tape and compact disc, video cassettes, DVD's, large print books, music CD's, magazines and online reference resources. We also offer services such as interlibrary loan, free Internet access, reference assistance and quality educational programming for adults and children. Ongoing programs include monthly lectures and author book signings, Essex Reads – a town wide one-book project each April, Friday Family Night specials, Book-A-Baby welcome kits, book discussion groups, monthly technology seminars, Summer Reading Programs, the Laura Griswold Memorial Concert, and our popular "Essex and the Sea" sailing series each February.

Attendance at programs and use of the collections has continued to increase at a staggering pace in the past 5 years. And yet because of severe space constraints books and other materials must be continually removed from the collection that would otherwise be retained. Programs, when held in the Library, prevent visitors from using the children's room and finding books. There is no quiet spot to read, reflect or study. Faced with these challenges, a thoroughly developed and thoughtful expansion and renovation project is underway. The expansion plans are displayed at the Library for anyone interested in further details and groundbreaking is scheduled for sometime in the fall of 2005.

The Capital Campaign Committee has been working tirelessly to raise the funds necessary to ensure the successful completion of this exciting project, named The Next Chapter campaign. The Library has received a \$500,000 Public Library Construction Grant from the Connecticut State Library and a \$2,000,000 low interest loan from the USDA for the project. Hundreds of local residents and business have also contributed to the campaign.

Library staff

Anita Amos, Cathy Burgard, Judie McCann, Elizabeth Nash, Bridget Quinn-Carey (Director), Sue Staehley and Ann Thompson, Jenny Tripp, Ron White.

Board of Trustees 2005

Alison Brinkmann, Edward Castner (President), William Chatman, Paul Ferrucci, Barry Fulford, Maureen Heher, John Heiser, Bill Jacaruso, Alison Smith Marcinek, George Penniman, Terry Smith, Carolyn Timmerman, Hans Ullstein, and Jerome Wilson.

Bridget Quinn-Carey, Director

Ivoryton Library Association

Technology is changing the traditional functions of a library, and the Ivoryton Library is no exception. More and more, the computer and the associated Internet are becoming the mode for the transfer of information. As a result, the Ivoryton Library has moved into the electronic age, featuring computers that are available for public use during all open hours.

In July 2004, the Ivoryton Library greatly expanded its hours. This has proven to be very successful and the library is currently open seven days a week. Commencing in early September, the Essex Library will operate from the Ivoryton Library, due to the renovation and expansion of the Essex Library building. During this period, which is estimated to be a year, the library will be open 58 hours each week. The Ivoryton Library welcomes the Essex Library to its building.

Tying in with the expanded functions of libraries, the Ivoryton Library presents various free programs for the public, three of which deserve special mention. A committee of Bill Nelson, Polly Johnson, Sally D'Aquila, Mary Catharine Colburn, Ginny Cook, Betty Sangster, Shirley Malcarne, Marie Negrelli, Yolanda Lowe, and Mary Weselcouch put together a photographic and film exhibit entitled "Images of Essex." A two-week presentation of the exhibit, sponsored by the Middlesex Community Foundation and over 100 local sponsors was displayed late April and early May of this year at the Essex Art Association. This was enthusiastically received, with the only criticism being that it should have run longer! The Committee, along with Gary Ribchinsky, is now completing work on "Legacies of White Gold" to be presented early this fall. Kathryn de Luna, a doctoral candidate at Northwestern University and a granddaughter of library employee Jean Johnson, conducted a three-week course at the Ivoryton Library in August entitled "Ties That Bind." This was a study of cultural connections between the east coast of Africa and New England.

Robbi Storms continues as the director, Loretta McCluskey and Whitney Burr are joining the Board of Trustees, replacing Fran Nolin and Scott Pinette, whom we thank greatly for their contributions. Don Malcarne, Brenda Milkofsky, and Ken Kells remain as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer respectively, with Cotty Barlow, Jacquie Sheppard, Patricia Sisson, Ed Weselcouch, Walker Burns, Jean Schneider, and Cindy Schroeder continuing as active board members.

Don Malcarne, President

Literacy Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers - Valley Shore, CT, Inc. trains volunteer tutors to teach Basic Reading and English as a Second Language to residents of the Valley Shore area who cannot read, write or speak English, or who would like to improve these basic skills. This one-to-one instruction is held confidential and is completely without charge to the student.

In 2004 from the town of Essex, we had 23 volunteers - 3 of these (Erling Nord, Robert Karr and John Pacelle) were Board members and 3 (Wanda Castner, Mona West and Dot Nord) were volunteer Staff members. Serving on our Book Sale Committee from Essex were Diane Crosby, Grace Rowe, Hazel Schulte and Dianne Monahan. Tutor Contacts were Jean Karr and Polly Johnson, while Erl Nord served as a member of our Speakers Bureau. Our total number of volunteers for 2004 was 184.

Our total number of students in 2004 was 292, and 12 of these resided in Essex. Our tutoring hours for 2004 were 6,572. Tutors spent 2,4478 hours preparing for lessons. In addition, our volunteers gave 5,572 hours in administrative time to help make our program successful. We tutor

students at Valley Regional and at John Winthrop but we do not register them by town. Our students represented 65 different countries.

In addition to our normal tutoring programs, we had 2 special programs in Essex:

School Tutoring Program: Adult tutors provide one-to-one tutoring to students in Basic Reading and English as a Second Language at Essex Elementary School and at Valley Regional High School.

Workplace Tutoring: ESL tutors work with non-English speaking workers at Tower Lab.

Mary Ellen Jewett, Executive Director

LVVS Book Sale – Monday-Friday and the first and third Saturday of the month.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Judy Anderson, Kathryn Bozzi, Edith Bucchi, Ronald DeMartino, Suzanne Dineen, Robert Karr, Alouise Keenann, Merrillyn Nelligan, Erling Nord, John Pacelle, Barrie Potter, and Alberta Slattery.

Essex Lions Club

The Essex Lions Club has served the Town of Essex for over 50 years. During the past year, the Club made substantial donations to the Essex and Ivoryton Libraries, the Essex Fire Department, and the Essex Ambulance Association. We also contributed to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and the Tri-town Youth Service Bureau. Keeping with the Lions Club's support of vision-related organizations, contributions were made to the CT Lion's Eye Research Center, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, and the CT Low Vision Center. We also paid for eye exams and eyeglasses for Essex residents who could not afford them.

The Essex Lions Club thanks all who so generously donate in many ways to help us in our continued efforts to support our community. The always popular Essex Lions Lobster Bake was held on the first Saturday of August; we expanded our annual Thomas the Tank Engine concession at Valley Railroad; and, finally, there was an excellent response to the Essex Lions Eye Research letter. The Club looks forward to another year of service and thanks the Town of Essex for its support.

John Bogeart, President

The Rotary Club of Essex

The Essex Rotary Club spun off from the Old Saybrook Club back in 1955. Richard Schneller was the first president elected to the new Essex Club on August 22, 1955. The Essex Rotary was formally chartered on October 3, 1955. In Rotary, the idea of community exceeds far beyond the locations of one Rotary Club. It encompasses people in places through out the world, as well as individual clubs who reach out on a local level to meet community needs. Paul P. Harris started the first club in Chicago on February 23, 1905. Rotary adopted its motto in 1911 "Service Above Self" and has served our efforts to carry out humanitarian service, promote high ethical standards and work for international understanding and peace. Rotarians are committed to eradicate polio globally and have successfully immunized more than one billion children. We have expanded our efforts to address such issues as environmental, water management, sanitation, illiteracy, and world hunger. In commemoration of the Centennial of Rotary International and the 50th anniversary of our local club, we partnered with the Connecticut River Museum to light the walkways, refurbish the historic channel marker and to landscape and renovate the outdoor entrance to the museum, which we called "Lighting the Way."

My personal commitment to the Essex Rotary Club is to work on membership and to continue with new ideas for viable fundraising events that will enhance our club and benefit our community and make it a better place for all of us to live, play and work. I would like to commit to Rotary International in the future, to volunteer my time to a project in one of the third world countries supporting RI vast efforts to make a difference.

Please join us at the CT Audubon Eagle Festival Rotary food tents in February 2006, the Talent Show in the spring, and our traditional Shad Bake on June 3, 2006. Proceeds fund the community

service activities of the club as well as our Scholarship program. Rotarians also volunteer numerous hours to other civic projects in the community.

The Essex Rotary meets each Tuesday evening at 6:15 p.m. at the Essex Yacht Club. If you are interested in opportunities for community involvement and good fellowship, and wish to join in and learn more about us, please join us as our guest. Please call me at 510-0119 or call our Membership Chairman, Glenn Herman at 767-2812. For more information regarding our events visit our web site at www.essexrotary.com.

Judith A. Clark, President

Cub Scouts

Essex Cub Scouts, Pack 4, is a chartered unit under the Boy Scouts of America Connecticut Rivers Council, Middlesex District. The Rotary Club of Essex is our charter sponsor. Essex Cub Scouts Pack 4 has been serving boys ages 6-13 in our community for the past 50 years. Pack 4 currently has 52 scouts registered, with 15 adult leaders. Our adult leaders are preparing our scouts to move into Boy Scouts in five steps, starting as Tiger Cubs to Wolves, the Bears and finally into Webelos, an 18 month commitment until they cross over to Boy Scouting.

The scouts learn a sense of responsibility to their community and to be charitable and kind to those in need. Our scouts have been active in community service, gathering clothing for the Warm the Children campaign, providing food, serving, and cleaning up for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. Our scouts understand the outdoor ethics of "Leave No Trace" and the importance of recycling. Through Cub Scouting they perform a service to the community and understand how to better themselves to become exemplary citizens of the United States. The program is designed to be a complete family event. Scouts with parental assistance learn a variety of age appropriate skills in sports, first aid, arts and crafts, and music and are instilled with an appreciation for the outdoors as they earn their advancement ranks. The Cubs also go on several trips to sporting events, camp outs, picnics, parades, museums, and meet other scouts from throughout Connecticut at officially sponsored District Events.

We thank all citizens of Essex for supporting our bottle drives each month and our seasonal wreath and candle sales.

Adults or boys interested in joining Pack 4 should contact the Committee Chairman Carl Wohlmuth at 767-7531 or Cubmaster Anthony Chirico at 767-2337.

Don Frazier, Den 8 Leader
Essex Cub Scouts, Pack 4

Tri-Town Youth Services

Since Tri-Town Youth Services' establishment in 1984, the nonprofit has served youth (birth to 18) and their families who reside in Chester, Deep River, and Essex. The agency works with youth to strengthen connections with family, peers, school, and the community, carefully ensuring our services augment, not duplicate other programs.

Counseling and crisis intervention were provided to residents for a wide range of issues through day and evening appointment with 24-hour phone availability. Issues addressed include parting and relationship concerns, depression, suicide ideation, sexual abuse, and substance abuse, with referrals made in some instances. Our early intervention program, the Tri-Town Juvenile Review Board, hears cases of youth in trouble with the law as they are referred.

More of our work is directed to positive youth development, parent education, and building healthy families and communities. With the school social worker, we trained Peer Advocates at Valley Regional; facilitated two youth advisory boards, organized community service activities (such as growing vegetables for Shoreline Soup Kitchens and packing holiday baskets), facilitated several mentoring programs, offered supervised teen recreational activities, a youth job bank, babysitter training classes (one, CPR for teens), Homework Hangout, a Summer Co-op for middle school youth, and involvement in Safe Grad. Parent programs included groups for parents/caregivers and their one-year-olds or two-year-olds, and courses such as "Housework Helpers" and "Mom and Dad,

How Do I Get Kids to Like Me?” We sponsored the sixteenth annual substance abuse prevention/awareness week, “High on Life,” successful due to support from multiple facets of the community.

The Bureau’s Board of Directors is comprised of three to five members from each of the three towns and a youth representative. Our special thanks to volunteers who have donated time and talent, to local taxpayers who support the bureau by providing the matching funds needed to procure our State Department of Education grant, and to all who have made monetary donations essential for maintaining our operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail M. Onofrio, Director

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

The staff of VNLV extends our heart-felt appreciation to our volunteer board of directors for their vision, leadership and commitment: Dr. Sally Crawford, President, Wendy Connor, Judy Heiser, Sheldon Kutnick, Dick Levene and Andrew Mitchel from Essex; and Ted Heiser, Arthur Henick, Peg Lieberman Carl Manning, and Skip Weisenburger of Chester; and Cathleen Buchanan from Old Lyme.

This past year, our staff provided 12,594 visits to 184 Essex residents, ranging from dietary counseling to treatment for medical conditions provided by therapists and nurses. We are very grateful that the Town of Essex contributed directly to the care of 46 individuals, who received 250 visits. Without this assistance from our town, these residents may well have gone without these critically needed services.

Last winter proved to be a very challenging flu season. Without sufficient vaccine, VNLV worked closely with town officials to assure that all high risk individuals, whether at home or residing in rest or convalescent facilities, were vaccinated against influenza. While we will be much better prepared for the upcoming season, we still anticipate that the demand for vaccine will surpass the supply, and that once again, we will be forced to prioritize people over the age of 64, pregnant women, and those with certain chronic health conditions.

Our volunteer program may be small in numbers, but it is big in heart! We are very fortunate to have some of the most caring and dedicated volunteers that any nonprofit could hope for. A special thank-you to Lucy Weed and Dean Helm for always going the extra mile. Over the past year, our team has provided 188 rides to 94 individuals, the vast majority of whom needed transportation to medical appointments. Giving of your time and talents can greatly improve quality of life for isolated seniors. Volunteer - come make a difference with us.

Priscilla Munro, Executive Director

Town Meeting Minutes

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING August 4, 2004

First Selectman, Philip Miller, called the Town Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Philip Miller was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin, read the call of the meeting. There were four (4) people in attendance.

The following resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$650 to the Grove Street Park Committee. Said sum to be taken from the Grove Street Park Committee Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Ralph Monaco as an alternate member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2004.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING October 6, 2004

First Selectman, Philip Miller, called the Town Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Donald Malcarne was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin, read the call of the meeting. There were seventy (70) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of one Matthew Needleman to the Park and Recreation Commission.

This candidate withdrew his name.

RESOLVED: To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$27,166 to the Park and Recreation Commission for the purpose of improvements to the Viney Hill Brook Park. Said sum to be taken from the Park and Recreation Commission Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. And to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$12,000 to the Park and Recreation Commission for the purpose of improvements to the Viney Hill Brook Park. Said sum to be taken from the Contingency Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To authorize the First Selectman, on behalf of the Town of Essex, to enter into a contract with the Ford Motor Credit Company to lease-purchase: One (1) 2005 Light Duty, 4 x 4 Dump Truck at a cost of \$42,357.00 (\$42,182.00 purchase price plus \$175.00 lease documentation fee) for a term of thirty-six months payable in three (3) annual installments of \$14,858.86 said payment includes financing charges at the rate of four and fourteen hundredths (4.14%) percent per annum. And, One (1) 2005 Heavy Duty, 4 X 4 Pickup Truck at a cost of \$25,057.00 (\$28,218.00 purchase price, less a \$3,511.00 trade in allowance, plus a \$350.00 lease documentation fee) for a term of thirty-six months payable in three (3) annual installments of \$8,575.00 said payment includes financing charges at the rate of four and seven hundredths (4.07%) percent per annum. A copy of the information is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a revision to the 2004-2005 Town of Essex Budget to provide for acceptance of additional revenue in the amount of \$220,000 in Small Town Economic Assistance Program funds for the purpose of erecting a public restroom in the Essex Main Street Park. A copy of the grant document is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a revision to the 2004-2005 Town of Essex Budget to provide for expenditures not to exceed \$220,000, as an offset to the Small Town Economic Assistant Program funds, for the purpose of erecting a public restroom in the Essex Main Street Park. A copy of the grant document is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopts an Ordinance Delaying Granting of Permit for Demolition of Historic Buildings. A copy of said ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING November 15, 2004

First Selectman, Philip Miller called the Town Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Donald Malcarne was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin, read the call of the meeting. There were 60 (sixty) people in attendance.

The following resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To accept the Statement of Town Accounts, report of the Town Treasurer and the report of the Superintendent of Schools, as printed in the 2003-2004 Annual Town Report.

RESOLVED: To transfer \$30,134 into the Town Clerk's account. Said sum to be taken from the Undesignated Fund Balance as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To transfer \$24,849 into the Park and Recreation Commission account. Said sum to be taken from the Undesignated Fund Balance as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To transfer \$54,083 into the Constables account. Said sum to be taken from the Undesignated Fund Balance as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$10,000 to the Essex Land Conservation Trust toward the purchase of property that is sometimes referred to as the Doane-Neidlinger property that is located on the West corner of Route 153 next to the Middlesex Hospital Shoreline Medical Center. Said sum to be taken from the Open Space Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

There were 2 nay's for this Resolution

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a revision to the 2004-2005 Town of Essex Budget to provide for acceptance of additional revenue in the amount of \$486,000 in Small Town Economic Assistance Program funds for the purpose of lighting, street and sidewalk improvements to Main Street, Essex and lighting for Main Street, Ivoryton. A copy of the grant document is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a revision to the 2004-2005 Town of Essex Budget to provide for expenditures not to exceed \$486,000, as an offset to the Small Town Economic Assistant Program funds, for the purpose of lighting, street and sidewalk improvements to Main Street, Essex and lighting for Main Street, Ivoryton. A copy of the grant document is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Neill Bovaird as a member of the Conservation Commission to fill a vacancy. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2005.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Richard Murray as a member of the Conservation Commission to fill a vacancy. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2005.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Douglas Demarest as a member of the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Samuel Powell as a member of the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Robert Graulich as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Charles Corson as a member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Daniel Lapman as a member of the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Frits Zernicke as an alternate member of the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission to fill a vacancy. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2004

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Frits Zernicke as an alternate member of the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Eric Brown as an alternate member of the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Raymond Gastil as a member of the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Ralph Monaco as an alternate member of the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of William Foster as a member of the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of John Beveridge as a member of the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of David Winstead as a member of the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Jeffrey Going as a member of the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Joseph Zaraschi as a member of the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Earl Fowler as an alternate member of the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Cecilia Freundlich as member of the Park and Recreation Commission to fill a vacancy. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2005.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Michael Holmes as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission to fill a vacancy. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2004.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Michael Holmes as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Charmagne Eckert as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of James Rawn as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Richard Weiner as an alternate member of the Park and Recreation Commission to fill a vacancy. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2004.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Jack Lima as an alternate member of the Park and Recreation Commission to fill a vacancy. Term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Richard Weiner as an alternate member of the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Eric Bierrie as a member of the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Paul Kotowski as a member of the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of John Moran as a member of the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Alvin Wolfgram as an alternate member of the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Eric Bierrie as a member of the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Paul Kotowski as a member of the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of John Moran as a member of the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Alvin Wolfgram as an alternate member of the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2006.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Stuart Ingersoll as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of William Doane as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Anthony Chirico by the Board of Selectmen as a member of the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2004 to December 1, 2007.

First Selectman, Phil Miller thanked Lynn Faulstick and Lois Ely for all the work that they do to insure that these Boards and Commissions are filled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING February 16, 2005

First Selectman, Philip Miller called the Town Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Lee Rowley was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin, read the call of the meeting. There were fifteen (15) people in attendance.

The following resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$5,500 to the Harbor Management Commission. Said sum to be taken from the Harbor Management Commission Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of James Carey as an alternate member to the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to run from February 16, 2005 to December 1, 2005.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING April 21, 2005

First Selectman, Philip Miller, called the Town Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Donald Malcarne was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin, read the call of the meeting. There were approximately one hundred twenty-five (125) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$250,000 to the Park and Recreation Commission for the purpose of improvements to the Viney Hill Brook Park. Said sum to be taken from the Undesignated Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MAY 9, 2005

First Selectman, Philip Miller, called the Town Meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. Donald Malcarne was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin, read the call of the meeting. There were approximately 130 people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To increase the salary of the First Selectman from \$66,003 to \$67,785; the salary of the Town Clerk from \$42,922 to \$45,000; the salary of the Tax Collector from \$42,922 to \$44,210; the salary of the Board of Selectmen from \$7,444 to \$7,668 and the salary of the Town Treasurer from \$7,210 to \$21,000.

RESOLVED: To make the necessary appropriations as prepared and recommended by the Board of Finance for the support of schools, highways and the general government and other necessary objects in the amount of \$16,662,498.

RESOLVED: To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$16,762 to the Fire Department. Said sum to be taken from the Unappropriated Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MAY 10, 2005

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Essex was held at the Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex, Connecticut, on May 10, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Philip Miller. Motion made by Vincent Pacileo, seconded by Jerome Cutone that Donald Malcarne preside as Moderator. It was so voted.

Town Clerk Frances Nolin read the legal notice of the meeting (attached Exhibit), called particular attention to the qualifications necessary to vote at the town meeting, and stated that the return of posting and publication thereof, on file and of record, states that said Notice, signed by the Selectmen, had been posted on the Town signpost on April 22, 2005, and that a copy thereof had

been published in The Harford Courant, a newspaper having substantial circulation in said Town, in its issue of April 26, 2005.

The Moderator explained that pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Board of Selectmen at its meeting held on April 20, 2005, voted that the vote of Item 1 of the call of this Meeting be removed from the call and be submitted to a referendum vote at Adjourned Town Meeting to be held on May 17, 2005, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 8:00 p.m. Accordingly, the Moderator stated the Meeting would continue for purposes of discussion only on Item 1, the school bond resolution.

The following communication from the Board of Selectmen approving the resolution was received and incorporated in the minutes of the meeting:

See Exhibit attached hereto.

The following communication from the Board of Finance approving the resolution was received and incorporated in the minutes of the meeting:

See Exhibit attached hereto.

Town Clerk Frances Nolin introduced and read the resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$10,130,000 FOR THE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$10,130,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

The Moderator stated that a copy of the resolution is available at this meeting, and asked if there is a motion to waive the reading of the entire resolution, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting. Motion to waive the reading of the resolution, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting made by Norman Needleman, seconded by Vincent Pacileo. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Lon Seidman moved that said school bond resolution be adopted as introduced and the motion was seconded by Norman Needleman.

The Moderator stated that the remainder of this meeting will continue for discussion of the resolution only, with a referendum vote at Adjourned Town Meeting to be held on May 17, 2005, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 8:00 p.m.

One member of the public commented on the project.

Motion to adjourn made by Vincent Pacileo, seconded by Norman Needleman; approved with the understanding a referendum vote at an Adjourned Town Meeting to be held on May 17, 2005, between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 8:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING June 15, 2005

First Selectman, Philip Miller, called the Town Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Alvin Wolfgram was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin, read the call of the meeting. There were approximately forty (40) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$7,500 to the Essex Tree Committee. Said sum to be taken from the Tree Committee Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopts an Ordinance Concerning Animal Usage of Town Park Property ("Leash Law"). A copy of said ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopts an Ordinance Concerning Hours of Usage of Town Park Property. A copy of said ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

First Selectman Phil Miller read a statement from Resident Trooper Scott Wisner. This Ordinance would give the Police the authority to enforce the hours of usage of the parks. After much discussion

a motion was made to table this Resolution. A vote by a show of hands voted not to table it. More discussion ensued and a motion was made to vote on the Ordinance. The Ordinance was rejected on an 18-19 show of hands vote.

First Selectman Phil Miller said the Board of Selectmen would revisit the proposal at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

The submissions included in this Annual Report are the products of the various boards, commissions, committees, departments and community service organizations. This year's Annual Report was compiled by Robbi Storms.